

Sixteen held under terror act • Newman briefs MPs and police chiefs

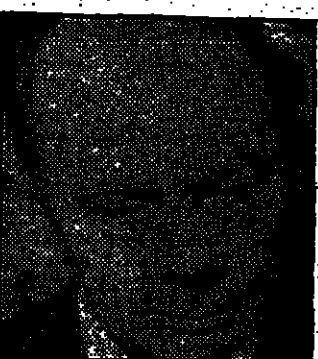
Torquay bomb fear as IRA hunt widens

By Martin Linton, Paul Brown, Anne McHardy, and Penny Chilton

A package thought to be a bomb was found in a Torquay hotel, yesterday, as police around the coast intensified their operations to counter the IRA bomb campaign.

Meanwhile, police were questioning 16 people being held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act in Strathclyde, two in London and five in Lancashire.

The army team examined a suspect package at the Palm



Sir Kenneth Newman — met resorts' MPs

A matter of brainpower, back page

Court Hotel on the seashore, after police inquiries in all the main hotels.

Police, apparently concerned that they were dealing with a radio-triggered explosive device, asked watching photographers to turn off radio-paging devices or any other electronic gadgets. Sightseers were moved back 400 yards and an ambulance and fire engine was standing by.

Their fears were aroused after the use of sniffling devices. They confirmed that they had found suspect names in the hotel register and that staff recognised photographs.

discover devices already in place.

It is believed that the bomb discovered in Rubens Hotel on Sunday may have been one of a whole series which could be in place ready for some concerted demonstration of IRA strength in the high holiday season of July.

This suspicion was shared by the group of MPs from the 12 resorts. They were briefed during the afternoon by Sir Kenneth Newman, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, who is co-ordinating the counter operation.

Sir Kenneth also met the chief constables of the police forces involved and Special Branch officers from Glasgow where nine people arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act were being held.

Those being questioned include at least four from North Scotland, among them Patrick Joseph Magee, a 39-year-old who has been wanted for six years by the police. They are believed to want to question him about the bombing of the oil depot at Canvey Island in Essex, and a London bomb attack.

In Scotland yesterday the search for the key IRA active service unit believed to be operating from the Strathclyde area was intensified.

Police awareness of the range was apparent as locks at police stations closely involved were changed. All police officers and cars going into the main station, in Stewart Street, Glasgow were being searched and roads around the sea were sealed off. The Lethian area was involved in the security checks and anxieties were expressed about the Queen's plans to travel around Scotland next month.

Three arrests in Blackpool yesterday bring the total of those held in Lancashire to five. The first two were arrested on Monday at addresses in Preston and Leyland.

Those arrested yesterday were understood to be Irish men. One, a man describing himself as a writer from Donegal, was arrested at a block of flats near the centre of Blackpool after armed Special Branch officers broke in with sledgehammers. A second was arrested in a raid on a guest house. Both are believed to have lived in the town for some time.

Sir Kenneth briefed 13 chief constables and senior police officers at a meeting in New Scotland Yard, London has the only police anti-terrorist squad in Britain and Sir Kenneth, who is a former Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, has an extensive

Turn to back page, col. 6

Berri offers US a hostage deal

From Ian Black in Beirut and Michael White in Washington

THE TWA hijack negotiations moved out of deadlock yesterday, when Mr Nabih Berri, the leader of the Shiite Muslim movement, released one of the 46 American hostages, and made a series of proposals which seemed to be designed to underline his role as an honest broker anxious to end the affair.

Mr Berri said that if the guarantees that the hostages would not be freed until Israel release 750 Lebanese prisoners, the remaining 39 Americans could be transferred to a Western embassy in West Beirut or to the Syrian capital of Damascus. "I leave the choice to the president of the US," he said.

Mr Berri, who claims that he is mediating between the original Shiite hijackers and the Americans, suggested the Swiss or French embassies. Both are in Muslim West Beirut, which is controlled by him.

He flatly said that he would not accept a guarantee from the US that Israel would free the Lebanese detainees after the hostages were released. On that fundamental demand there has been no change.

Israel last week freed 31 Lebanese, but denied that it was linked to the hijacking.

Mr Berri said at his heavily guarded home in the Corniche district that he decided to release Mr Jim Dell Palmer, aged 48, of Arkansas, after Red Cross officials found he was ill. Mr Berri said that he had been in hospital for several days and was now recovering. He had been taken to the air as his plane took off.

In Washington, hopes of a breakthrough in the hostage crisis, due to Syrian intervention, surged when the Administration imposed a news blackout on developments for the first time since the hijacking 13 days ago.

The White House spokesman, Mr Larry Speakes, repeatedly refused to comment on the Berri proposal.

The White House and the State Department welcomed the release of Mr Palmer and repeated that the best outcome of the problem would be "the prompt release of all the hostages" without condition.

Mr Berri said he was also examining the condition of Mr Simon Grossmayer, aged 57, of Illinois, who has only one lung and is in a critical medical situation. If he is not OK, we will release him today or tomorrow," he said.

The Amal leader told the news conference that Red Cross officials saw all 46 hostages at one place in Beirut on Tuesday night.

There has been concern that a small group of five or six Americans, including some military personnel, are being held separately by radical Shiite groups, probably the pre-Islamic Hizbullah (Party of God), which does not accept Amal's authority.

Mr Berri made two other conditions for the transfer of the hostages: that US warships stay seven miles offshore and that there should be no reprisals.

American officials said Tuesday that President Reagan was considering sanctions against Lebanon, but said later that the Administration would continue to make diplomatic efforts. A military response has been ruled out.

Mr Berri also said that two French journalists, Mr Jean-Paul Kaufman and Michelle Serrat, kidnapped in Lebanon, were still alive.

Turn to back page, col. 2



SHOOTING A LINE: Released hostage Jimmy Dell Palmer joking about pistols with Amal leader at Beirut airport

Lawson tries to quell Cabinet tax cuts doubt

By Christopher Hume, James Naughtie, and Michael Smith

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, attempted yesterday to rally Cabinet and business doubters to the Government's economic strategy with a clear commitment that taxes must and will be cut.

The senior ministers now expressing concern at the balance of tax and spending policy include Mr John Biffen, the Leader of the Commons and a former Treasury Chief Secretary, who said yesterday that the Government was vulnerable to charges of "social means-testing".

He is clearly now the leader of a group of ministers who are arguing that the Government's priority should be the maintenance of a balance between tax concessions (preferably in the form of increased thresholds) and spending curbs.

They are nervous at the enthusiasm of some Treasury ministers for a commitment to cuts in the standard rate of income tax and prefer to emphasise the Government's achievement in increasing real social expenditure.

The Chancellor's stern message was that interest rates had to stay up to "avoid taking any chances with inflation," which he said would be appreciably lower by the end of the year. The inflation rate has leapt from 4.6 per cent in December to 7 per cent in May.

The Chancellor said high levels of taxation was the cause of sluggish economic performance but pointed out that company tax rates next year would be the lowest in the industrial world, whereas income tax was still too high.

"The economy is going to turn to back page, col. 1

It is evident that most of the Cabinet now oppose the Treasury's deliberate dichotomy of tax cuts versus increased spending on programmes and Mr Biffen is understood in his contribution to Sunday's Cabinet meeting at Chequers, to have given his support to those who argue that the Government's task is to balance the competing claims of tax cuts, spending priorities and interest rate levels.

The majority group in the Cabinet now appears to believe that the manifesto commitment to cut income tax should not be allowed to distort the general economic approach of the government.

This means that Mr Lawson faces powerful opposition in his effort to reassert the primacy of tax cuts in the Government's economic thinking.

The Chancellor, in his first speech since the Chequers meeting on public spending, linked his attempt to rally the doubters with a criticism of recent appeals by the Confederation of British Industry for a two-point cut in interest rates.

Speaking to the Carlton Club political committee, Mr Lawson said that businesses could save four times as much by holding wage increases down by 1 per cent as they could with a 1 per cent interest rate cut. "Companies," he said, "can do more to help themselves than I can do for them."

City Notebook, page 24; Doubles and handwagons, page 25; Councils' overspending forecast, page 2.

Low-key checks on hotels

By David Pallister, David Rose, James Lewis and Keith Harper

Police and hoteliers in most of the 12 seaside resorts named in the IRA campaign have been told to carry out low-key checks on guests.

The IRA campaign has been described as a "massive task" and the police are concerned that they are dealing with a radio-triggered explosive device, asked watching photographers to turn off radio-paging devices or any other electronic gadgets.

Registers are being studied to see if guests have checked in under any of the names which the IRA have given to the police. Uniformed officers and detectives are also questioning hoteliers to see if they remember anyone fitting the descriptions of the suspects. Photographs were being shown at all hotels.

Hampshire police, responsible for Bournemouth, said that it was possible to keep the operation relatively low-key because they had detailed information of the types of people involved and the devices they might be looking for. It was not necessary to engage in a widespread, physical search of all hotels unless there were specific reasons to be suspicious.

This was the picture around the resorts yesterday. "DOVER: After a meeting in which police outlined their strategy, hoteliers were asked to assist in a series of questions about guests over the past six weeks, and given detailed questionnaires about the size of their hotels, and nature of their clientele. In every case the police took away the register for examination.

No searches of hotels have been carried out by police, but hoteliers have been asked to check rooms with great care and to report any suspicious objects. The manager at the Dover Stage hotel, Mr Ian Whitaker, said police had been "a bit vague about whether there were actually any bombs. They told us to be diligent."

FOLKESTONE: The manager of the largest hotel, Commander (Mr) John Griffin of the Royal Oman Police said that precautions were tight all year round. The hotel had not been searched but Mr Griffin said he was "satisfied with security, whoever had carried it out."

There had been only a brief visit from police at the luxury Clifton Hotel, where the manager, Mr Christopher Hillier, said: "We are usually vigilant anyway." He said that the police had told him that "at most certainly there is no bomb."

Blackpool: Although police arrested three people under the Prevention of Terrorism Act in Blackpool yesterday, they remained tight-lipped about the threat to the resort. If a bomb has been planted in one of the town's scores of hotels the police clearly have no idea where to start looking.

Turn to back page, col. 6

Nine arrested in Glasgow snoop

By Peter Stoddart, Scottish Correspondent

Nine people are now being held in Glasgow under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, after a new arrest was made early yesterday afternoon.

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Turn to back page, col. 6

Yarmouth on alert

From Paul Brown in Great Yarmouth

Norfolk police were using sniffer dogs and electronic detection devices yesterday in hotels in Great Yarmouth in the search for a bomb which they have been told may go off in the town.

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Turn to back page, col. 6

NEWS IN BRIEF

Grenade deaths

TEN South Africans were killed in grenade and bomb attacks near Johannesburg yesterday. Page 8.

Aids screening

MASS Aids tests for British blood donors will begin in September. Page 2.

Tamil talks

THE Sri Lankan government has agreed to talks with Tamil guerrilla groups. Page 8.

Oil slick toll

AN oil slick off the West Wales coast may kill up to 5,000 birds. Page 4.



By David Irvine

"The anti-terrorist squad better not stay at those holiday resorts too long or the DSS will stop their board and lodging allowances."

Race defence

A COMMONS committee has attacked two leading immigrant welfare groups for "unfounded" criticisms of the Home Office. Page 4.

Auction penalty

A RACEHORSE bidder who later withdrew his offer was ordered to pay 250,000 guineas by a High Court judge. Page 2.

BMA's drink drive

THE British Medical Association is to campaign for a ban on alcohol advertising. Page 2.

INSIDE

Arts reviews	22, 23
Books	10, 11
Business & finance	24-26
Crosswords	31, 32
Futures	13-29
Guardian Women	2-4, 32
Home News	12
Letters	12
Overseas News	6-8
Politics	27
Sports News	27-29
TV & RADIO	30
ENTERTAINMENTS	30
PERSONAL	31

The weather

SUNNY with showers developing. Details, back page.

Wilander is first seed to fail

By David Irvine

MATS WILANDER, playing his first match since winning the French Open earlier this month, was beaten in the first round of the men's singles at Wimbledon yesterday by Slovenian Grgoire Giffi of Yugoslavia, making his first appearance at the championships.

Giffi, who is ranked 77th in the world, defeated the Swede and No. 4 seed by 6-2, 7-5, 6-4, overwhelming him on his serve with 15-aces and countless service winners.

Left — Stefan Zvezanovic, Yugoslavia's No. 12

Britain's No. 1 John Lloyd made an encouraging start by defeating the West German Wolfgang Popp 6-2, 6-4, 7-5 but, in general, it was a disappointing day for home contenders.

Stephen Shaw, Britain's No. 2, was crushed 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 by the 1983 Wimbledon 8-ball Chris News in only 80 minutes. The New Zealanders' victory virtually guarantees a rematch later with the champion and favourite John McEnroe, his conqueror two years ago.

The first women's seed to fail was Sweden's Catarina Lindqvist (No. 12), beaten 6-0, 7-5 by the American Barbara Potter.

On court, it was announced that the suspension of the umpire Bob Jenkins who took the 1981 and 1982 finals, by the tournament referees Alan Mills had been endorsed by the championship committee. This followed an article in a national newspaper in which the Welsh official was alleged to have questioned the judgment of fellow-officials.

For the next three days play will start at noon on all courts to make up the backlog of matches.

Reports, page 28

Murrell secrecy concern

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Relatives and friends of Miss Hilda Murrell, the anti-nuclear campaigner who was abducted and murdered, are to continue to campaign for her death to be explained despite a police inquiry yesterday ruling out any connection with government security agencies. They want a public inquiry.

Mr Peter Smith, the assistant chief constable of Northumbria, closed his review of the West Mersea police handling of the case by disclosing some of his findings. But the

Full report, back page

report, he said, would remain confidential in case it prejudiced the continuing murder inquiry.

Mr Robert Green, Miss Murrell's nephew and a naval intelligence officer during the Falklands conflict, said he would have been reassured if the report had been published and had provided a reasoned explanation of conflicting evidence. He suggested that the police had avoided evidence.

He said there was sufficient circumstantial evidence that the break-in at his aunt's home was premeditated and that the burglar was looking for information rather than valuables.

Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Lanarkshire, called on the Government last night to give "a full and public account" of the investigation and asked whether Mr Smith had interviewed Sir Robert Armstrong, the Cabinet Secretary.

Mr Dalyell said that Sir Robert had ordered a leak inquiry involving intercepted Argentine signals.

He said he had been passed information from reliable sources that Miss Murrell appeared on Special Branch files.

SALE

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Open an account rest of the week. F

Campaign agreed for ban on alcohol advertising

Twin assault by BMA on beer and cigarettes

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent

A campaign to ban the advertising and promotion of alcohol is to be launched by the British Medical Association in tandem with a series of measures to strengthen its campaign against the tobacco industry.

The BMA's annual meeting at Plymouth yesterday carried by large majorities eight motions which will transform the association's stance on the two products.

As well as committing itself to a ban on advertising the association is pledged to press government ministers for a substantial rise in alcohol duty, and to demand that the specific gravity of draught ales and beers should be declared in public houses and shops.

The association is also pledged to press for a ban on tobacco advertising and on arts and sports sponsorship by tobacco companies. The association will also seek substantial increases in fines for shopkeepers who sell cigarettes to children and a ban on the sale of new nicotine snuff products such as Skoal Bandits and Tobacco Teabags.

The tobacco campaign will be intensified as Department of Health ministers and Mr Neil Macfarlane, the sports minister, start to renegotiate voluntary agreements on tobacco advertising and sports sponsorship. The BMA will seek a new tobacco act to impose a complete advertising and sponsorship ban, and with the power to prosecute companies who ignore it.

The BMA's interest in tackling the alcohol industry has

been stimulated by the part drink plays in soccer hooliganism, and Mr Stuart Horner, a community physician, who moved the motion, said yesterday: "Even a Tory government has been forced to introduce a ban on the sale of alcohol in this instance."

He claimed that alcohol is partly responsible for child abuse and child battering, for accidents after the pub have closed, and for domestic violence. Advertisements were increasing in quantity, quality, and subtlety as they told the public that alcohol is part of a sophisticated lifestyle.

Dr John Dawson, BMA under-secretary for the Board of Science, said at a press conference that alcohol was thought to be responsible for about 15,000 deaths a year, compared with 100,000 deaths attributed directly or indirectly to cigarette smoking. This emphasis is expected to be reflected in the weight given to the two campaigns by the BMA.

The BMA also decided to campaign for compulsory rear seat belts in cars after persuading the Government to make front belts compulsory. It will also publish a report on the effects of a nuclear winter after a series of nuclear bombs have dropped.

All this, plus yesterday's votes supporting the principle of surrogate motherhood and embryo research, was too much for one speaker. Mr Richard Greenwood, a consultant, told conference members: "We are now a pill-pushing, rent-a-womb mob of unilaterally disarming hippies. The BMA is not the organisation I joined."

College jobs vacant 'because of salaries'

By David Hencke

Senior university posts, including four professional chairs in anaesthetics, are going begging because salary levels and conditions are not good enough, the British Medical Association's annual meeting in Plymouth was told yesterday.

Dr Colin Smith, chairman of the medical academic staff committee, said that the situation would deteriorate if universities could not meet the 6.2 per cent pay award to medical staff announced earlier this month.

The University Grants Committee (UGC), some universities and the Association of University Teachers were saying that it could not be paid in full because of lack of cash. Dr Smith said that people preferred to work in the National Health Service and supplement salaries with private practice rather than in a university and at an associated teaching hospital for nearly 50 weeks a year.

"On top of the present cuts, we now face a further 2 per cent per annum cut in the UC grants which, together with the increase in National Insurance bills and university fees, is giving medical schools a projected deficit for this year of £500,000."

"This can only have a major effect on jobs and a conse-

quent deterioration in patient care. The rise in medical academic salaries had cost universities £1.7 million a year compared with £24 million for other staff. Medical academic jobs had been cut by 21 per cent compared with 7 per cent for others."

John Fairhall adds: "The growing shortage of teachers in mathematics, physics and chemistry is a serious obstacle to the Government's attempts to improve the quality and amount of science and maths in schools, the three main graduate careers advisory bodies said yesterday."

Their annual review of graduate employment prospects, said that the number entering teaching or teacher training in 1984 was "markedly lower". In 1984 the number of maths and physics graduates entering teacher training fell by about one-fifth, Mr Brian Pitt of the Central Services Unit told a press conference.

The starting salary for many new graduates this autumn would be about £7,000 outside London, said the CSU, the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services, and the Standing Conference of Employers of Graduates. Employment prospects for graduates were better this year with about 20 per cent of vacancies unfilled.

Servicemen in spy case 'not deprived of rights'

An NCO giving evidence in the trial of seven servicemen accused of spying in Cyprus said yesterday that there had been any attempt to deprive them of their rights by failing to keep records of when they were removed from their cells to be interrogated.

Sergeant Paul Pettit, who was in charge of the Scots Guards guardroom at Episkopi, where the seven were held under close arrest, has conceded that he ceased keeping "live body charts" for them.

He agreed with Mr Michael Hill, QC, for one of the accused, Senior Aircraftman Christopher Payne, aged 24, that the charts would have shown when any of the seven was removed for questioning by RAF investigators.

But further questioning at

had been completed, Sgt Pettit said they had been handed to a sergeant in the physics and whose name he could not recall.

The five RAF men and two soldiers on trial are alleged to have done incalculable damage by passing on some of Britain's most precious military secrets while attached to a communications base on Cyprus.

Another of the accused, Senior Aircraftman Geoffrey Jones, aged 20, who is alleged by the prosecution to have been the ringleader, made no complaint about his treatment by passing on some of Britain's most precious military secrets while attached to a communications base on Cyprus.

RAF Corporal Christopher Jones said that when he was in room duty "Jones" didn't enjoy "one, he wasn't fact, and he money out of him that for done he for a fairly

ues today.

Gambler must pay for horse bid he withdrew



James Flood: 'I'd to court'

By Aileen Ballantyne

A PROFESSIONAL gambler who told the High Court that everybody cheats in horse racing was ordered yesterday to pay 250,000 guineas to the owners of a one-year-old colt after bidding 430,000 guineas for the horse at Newmarket.

Mr James Flood, aged 30, an Irishman, told the court in London that he was an honest gambler but not a straightforward one.

During the 13-day hearing witnesses explained the practice of "running up" the bidding for bloodstock. The practice forced up the price of horses by using false bidders.

Two days after Mr Flood made his disputed bid of 430,000 guineas the same colt was sold to Sheikh Hamdan bin Maktoum of Dubai for 200,000 guineas.

Mr Flood told the court that although everybody cheated at horse racing, he did not cheat at cards because he didn't need to, as he was one of the best card players in the world.

Mr Justice Hirst said he would resist the temptation to speculate about Mr Flood's motives in bidding for the colt, Sulafah, and then repudiating the bid. Although Mr Flood's bid was a fraud, he said, it was a fraud of a different kind. He had lied to the police and to the court.

Mr Flood admitted bidding up to 430,000 guineas for Sulafah, claiming that he was part of a three-man Irish syndicate. But he denied making the 430,000-guinea bid, and denied being part of a multi-million pound fraud syndicate.

The colt's original owners, Alchymy International, based in Lichtenstein, sued Mr Flood and Tattersall's British largest bloodstock auctioneers, for 230,000 guineas in damages which made up the difference in the price obtained for the horse.

Mr Justice Hirst unreservedly cleared Tattersall's of allegations that they had mishandled the sale by delaying it for two days after the dispute over Mr Flood's bid, which he held to be fraudulent.

Alchymy had argued that by the time the colt was sold many of the ten buyers had left, and the price was lower as a result.

Tattersall's said that the best advantage could be obtained by delaying the sale. Sulafah had been lot number 116, and lot number 117, a horse named Hello Gorgeous, fetched a European record of 1.5 million guineas.

Mr Justice Hirst said that allegations by Mr Flood about Mr Henry Cecil, top trainer and Alchymy's British representative, were disgraceful, and should never have been made.

Alchymy would have to recover their 230,000 guineas damages against Mr Flood, whose assets were described by the judge as "evidently substantially less valuable" than those of Tattersall's.

Mr Flood added: "But you cannot take the same view about an injunction granted by the court without the union having any formal legal rights of defence."

The only way to defend the union when a judge made an order was to stop the strike, apologise, and say that members were wrong to stick to the rule book. That was not defence, it was capitulation, he said.

"To contemplate such behaviour would be immoral and dishonest, a betrayal of our independence and our bond of trust with our members."

The TGWU would become known as a union which bent under pressure, not one that could hit under pressure.

Jenkin hints at new action to curb council spending

By John Carvel

Mr Patrick Jenkin yesterday foreshadowed further government action to limit local authorities' capacity to spend £5 billion of accumulated capital receipts when he announced that English councils were heading to overspend this year's investment allocations by up to £250 million.

The Environment Secretary confirmed the government's decision, reported in Monday's Guardian, that no investment moratorium should be imposed to stop the overspend.

Councils' returns suggested that spending on new homes, schools, and roads would be £1,500 million to £2,750 million compared with a Treasury cash limit of £1,911 million.

Mr Jenkin said in December that the action, such as a freeze on new building contracts, would not be necessary if the overspend appeared likely to be under £2,000 million. Given that this figure will probably be exceeded, the fail-

ure to impose even a voluntary moratorium suggests that the Environment Department has won another victory in negotiations with the Treasury.

A moratorium could have re-awakened the Tory backbench dissent of last year when the Government reduced authorities' capacity to re-invest accumulated receipts from sales of council houses and other assets.

Mr Jenkin said he was concerned at the likely overspend, which would come out of the Treasury's £5 billion contingency reserve.

It underlined the need to find an improved system of control, he said. It is understood that two rival solutions have emerged to solve the problem of the council's £5 billion unspent capital receipts.

The Treasury and some DoE officials are thought to favour legislation to restrict spending of past receipts more rigidly than new receipts raised during the current financial year.

This would bring the number under control while providing an incentive for more sales of council houses and land. But Tory backbenchers would probably object to the Government breaking its promise to allow councils to spend their own money on further investment.

Mr Jenkin is believed to want a more complex reform giving local authorities external financing limits on capital investment, similar to those operating in nationalised industries. The disagreement makes legislation in the next session of Parliament unlikely.

The shadow environment secretary, Dr John Gummer, said the decision still left British bottom of the international league for spending on infrastructure.

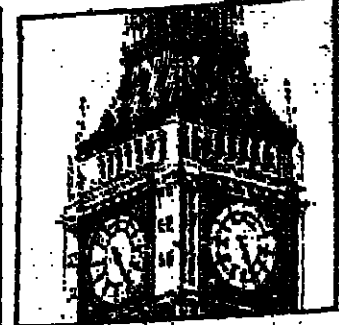
Britain's environment, housing and infrastructure were in a desperate state, and massive public and private investment was needed, he said.

The Building Employers' Confederation welcomed the fact that the announcement had brought no further restrictions on council investment, but complained: "It is just a breathing space as far as we are concerned."

Despite yesterday's announcement councils will still be left with less than half the money to spend, in real terms, than 10 years ago, according to the Association of Metropolitan Authorities.

The AMA chairman, Mr Jack Layden, said: "Of course we are pleased there is to be no normal moratorium this year. But a new freeze isn't needed: the one we've already got is quite bad enough."

Preventing authorities spending their own money ensured that hardly any new work would be started this year, he added, and the situation was disastrous with thousands of construction workers on the dole, billions of pounds worth of work still desperately needed to be done, and we are still being denied the chance to get working."



David McKie

Shinwell tonic for the troops

"I HAVE been interested in defence for many years," said the noble Lord, "even as far back as the Boer war."

Some mistake here, surely? But no, this was Lord Shinwell, 101 in the autumn, a 15-year-old when the Boers delivered their ultimatum.

Lord Shinwell's theme was the Second World War. What were they after? They were seeking to scorch the earth," he said. "They are seeking as they were in 1917" (when Manny was 33) "to create a Communist world that is not done by destroying the West."

But he was at one with the Government in counselling unflinching vigilance. "I am 100 per cent in support of government defence policy," he assured the House, "apart from having some criticisms."

The Government was represented by Lord Tressgarn, second baron and parliamentary under-secretary. He spoke in the manner of a brisk young subaltern, psyching up the men for some mission they might never return from.

Defence, he disclosed, was "unique. Defence did not come cheap. What was more, money spent on defence was money forgone elsewhere."

We must be realistic. We must take the world as it was, not as we might wish it to be. The Soviets had great military and naval might, they had chemical weapons, and all this to the accomplishment of "a ceaseless rephony of propaganda against the West."

Yet the response of the free world to that was now part of history. This Government was now the business of rearmament and withdrawal. It was in the business of improvement and enhancement.

That didn't mean, of course, that it neglected arms control. No, arms control was a part of the Tressgarn's hauntingly put it — "part and parcel" of Government policy. But we weren't stary-eyed about it. "Peace in our time," said the under-secretary, "is an unwise slogan for any British politician. But if it is based on wishful thinking it is not just unwise, it is downright dangerous."

No openings for the Kremlin there. What of Lord Boston, spokesman for the party that wants to close the bases and send the American nukes back home?

Lord Boston echoed Lord Tressgarn. Nato was the heart of our policy, and central to it was the American relationship. "We have our differences," he said. "But that does not prevent us from remaining the closest of partners."

But, like the Daily Telegraph, he saw in the defence white paper "only a passing resemblance to reality." Like the Economist, he thought it ducked the real issues. Like the Commons select committee, he saw within it the implication of substantial real cuts in our spending.

Lord Jenkins of Putney, sitting a few seats away, but clearly Lord Boston did not. Indeed, Lord Kennet, speaking later for the SDP, found himself 100 per cent in support of the Labour spokesman, apart from some criticisms.

He could not help feeling that it had not been Labour's policy, but never Party. The Labour front bench in the Lords traditionally did not worry too much about such things.

There was menacing was Lord Carver, a real field marshal. They haven't one of those in the Commons for quite some time.

Lord Carver was glum. This country, he said, had a long tradition of only latching on to new technologies when it was almost too late. That went for steam (we'd hoped to stick with sails for the submarine, for the torpedo, even the obsolescence of the horse had been hard for the British to bear).

Today, in the same way, we were sticking to Trident — "Wasting money," as Lord Carver put it — on the so-called British independent nuclear deterrent.

While he was at it, he could not see much use in the new European combat aircraft. The Government benches took this iconoclasm calmly. Even so, one doubts if, after this, Lord Tressgarn would be entirely happy to take him over the top.

Politics, page 27

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TGWU keeps its stand on law

By Keith Harper, Labour Editor

The Transport and General Workers' Union yesterday reaffirmed its opposition to the Government's trade union legislation in a decision which will bring it into direct conflict with other unions at this year's Trades Union Congress.

In the most important debate at the Bournemouth TGWU conference delegates rejected suggestions that the union should abide by the legislation, and proposals that it should defend itself in the courts to safeguard union funds.

The move, built around a strong speech from the TGWU general secretary-elect, Mr Ron Todd, which earned him a standing ovation, leaves the TGWU in isolation, since most unions feel that the Labour movement should re-adapt itself, despite the strong stand at the Wembley conference three years ago.

Mr Todd said the TGWU was being flexible enough; its rules were adequate and provided for ballots where necessary, and the union had no intention of giving up its hard-won rights on the say-so of judges.

Attempts to win backing for mandatory ballots over shop agreements and before strike action was made official were swept aside.

Also defeated were calls for an all-out strike and a recalled conference if the TGWU came under legal threat. The conference decided to insist that any money sequestered by courts be repaid by a future Labour government.

Delegates accepted that the TGWU had adapted to change. Members were holding ballots in some cases before strike action and to confirm closed shop agreements to meet the Government's legislation.

But Mr Todd insisted that there was an essential limit to flexibility.

"You cross it when you let the employers and their Government decide how this union is to be run. And I for one will not recommend that we let flexibility and pragmatism take us into the trap," he said.

The matter of defence in court was two-headed, he said. First, there was the question of how to respond when an employer used the law to get a judge to grant an injunction against the union. The second situation arose when that employer went to the court to seek damages against the TGWU.

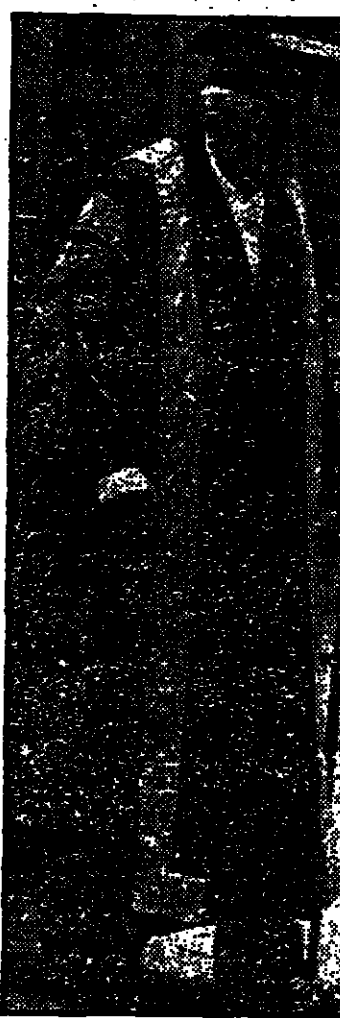
In the second case, the union could defend itself and he simply see its members' money pocketed by employers who regarded the law as a "God-given insurance policy against their own bad management" or their inability to meet legitimate pay claims.

Mr Todd added: "But you cannot take the same view about an injunction granted by the court without the union having any formal legal rights of defence."

The only way to defend the union when a judge made an order was to stop the strike, apologise, and say that members were wrong to stick to the rule book. That was not defence, it was capitulation, he said.

"To contemplate such behaviour would be immoral and dishonest, a betrayal of our independence and our bond of trust with our members."

The TGWU would become known as a union which bent under pressure, not one that could hit under pressure.



Sir Gerald Evans (right) wearing the cap of Doctor of Music after an honorary degree had been conferred on him by Oxford University yesterday, and (left), the Earl of Stockton, chancellor of the university at the ceremony.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cause of plane crash unclear

ACCIDENT investigators have virtually ruled out structural faults as the cause of last month's crash of the single-engine Edgley Optica aircraft in which two policemen died.

Preliminary examination of the wreckage by the Department of Transport's accident investigation branch as disclosed no evidence of structural failure. Nor have inspectors found any evidence of medical factors contributing to the crash.

The Chief Inspector of Accidents has ordered an inquiry into the crash.

12 years for Tidy kidnap

A FORMER Irish soldier who kidnapped the supermarket chief, Mr Don Tidy, was jailed for 12 years yesterday at Dublin's special criminal court.

Michael Burke, aged 38, was picked out at an identification parade nine months after the November 1983 kidnap, by a neighbour of Mr Tidy. He denied false imprisonment but was found guilty and will serve his sentence at Portlaoise Prison, near Dublin, where he once served as a guard.

Devon ends ban on CND badges

THE ban on teachers in Devon wearing CND badges has been lifted. The county's education committee overturned the ruling at its first meeting since the local elections.

Alliance and Labour members, who have a majority on the new committee, also voted to have the teachers' pay claim the 53rd out of 104 councils to do so — thus exempting Devon from any further strike action this year.

Hutchinson appeal

JUDGMENT on an appeal by Arthur Hutchinson, aged 44, against life imprisonment for the murders of a Sheffield solicitor, his wife and son, will be given on Monday and Tuesday as announced on Tuesday when the Appeal Court finished hearing submissions.

NUR backing for ballots faces stewards' attack

By Peter Hetherington and Patrick Wintour

The unexpected about-turn by the National Union of Railmen this week in favour of pre-strike ballots is likely to be criticised by some shop stewards fighting the run-down of British Rail engineering workshops.

A senior steward at Springburn works in Glasgow yesterday claimed that it was being deliberately run down and said the ballot decision at the union's conference would force its closure without a fight.

Speaking outside the conference in Ayr, Mr Hamilton said that the union leadership had reneged on its responsibility by successfully pressing for pre-strike ballots.

The decision effectively closed Springburn because the country would not support Scottish colleagues in any action over workshops. Last August the NUR executive called a one-day strike combined with a demonstration in Derby — headquarters of British Rail engineering — to protest at the run-down of the workshops.

The complaints of some stewards could be settled upon by the union's hard left, by evidence to support their criticism of this week's decision to approve pre-strike ballots in line with the 1984 Trade Union Act.

But Mr Jimmy Knapp, the union's leftwing general secretary, is adamant that the decision reflects the mood of the union's 14,000 members.

He claims that, with care, the union's stand can successfully exploit the legislation in a way the Government never intended.

Yesterday delegates instructed their national executive to resist by all means the privatisation of workshops or depot within British Rail and its engineering subsidiary.

One delegate warned that BR would continue to pick off workshops plant by plant to cut away the ground from under the union.

The NUR still committed to blocking 25 new diesel rail buses being completed by the Falkirk coach builder, Walter Alexander.

The union says the work should have gone to British Rail Engineering.

The Employment Secretary, Mr Tom King yesterday welcomed the NUR conference as a further step towards sanity.

He said that he did not claim that the Government's legislation had abolished strikes, but "We have done a pretty good demolition job on the senseless, ill-thought-out kind of strike that Mr Jimmy Knapp and his NUR colleagues have tended to specialise in."

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opped beating ies to it had ne point where life was blocked. very disease kills under the age of England and is a major Castle had four being given the six-year-old profes- years ago. He

started smoking again after the operation.

The suggestion from senior doctors yesterday was that, while the transplant saved his life, the cigarettes got him in the end. Some surgeons have refused to operate on heart patients unless they promise to give up smoking.

A leading transplant surgeon said: "An operation that gives six years of good quality life to a guy who was terminally

ill has got to be good. Quality of life is just as important as quantity."

"But of course we should be spending more on prevention. If you closed all the acute medical services and spent the money on 'people smoking you would save more lives over 10 years."

"But when you come to see me and say you've had a heart attack, I'd have to tell you we've closed the wards."

Mr Justice Hirst: refused to speculate

Mr Justice Hirst: refused to speculate

'Justice lacking' in Tory valuation of firms

From Malcolm Deaz in Strasbourg

The Conservative Government has refused to look at the consequences of Labour's nationalisation of seven ship-building and aircraft companies in 1977 because it would have been required to justify compensation worth as little as one seventh of the true value, the European Court of Human Rights was told in Strasbourg yesterday.

Mr Anthony Lester, QC, one of 10 counsel representing the companies on the final day of the hearing, said that the Government had refused to look at the gap between what the companies were worth in 1977 and what they were paid.

"The Government declares majestically that this is inappropriate," he said.

It had concentrated instead on the method of valuation rather than its consequences. "But how else can someone seek justice except by attempting to quantify the imbalance?"

The seven companies, which received £125 million in 1980, claim more than £500 million in the longest hearing the court has held, covering three days.

Mr Lester, summing up for all seven companies, said the applicants had valued their shares at the takeover day in 1977, but the Government had refused to carry out a similar exercise. It had based its valuation period some three years before 1977 to avoid uncertainty, yet it had taken more than three years from 1977 for compensation terms to be agreed.

Some of the 31 companies nationalised were losing money, but the seven involved in the case were all profitable. The European Convention entitled the companies to compensation on what they were worth, rather than on what other people's companies were worth, Mr Lester argued.

He said that the companies did not assert that the 1977 government had set out to breach the convention, but Labour and Conservative governments had refused to redress the balance. They knew that there had been arbitrary and unfair compensation, "but they closed their eyes, and ears."

The 1978 government, he said, could have rectified the wrong, but it compounded the unfair conduct of its predecessor, he claimed.

Before the commission it is argued that the commission and the court had no jurisdiction to entertain British claims; before the court this week it (the Government) has modified its extreme approach. "But beneath the surface of its submissions there remains the hard claim for state power: that it is primarily for the Government, with its safe majority in Parliament, to decide where state power ends and where the right of British nationals to fair compensation begins."

Mr Lester expressed regret that the Government was unwilling to give its own nationals equal justice under law. "The court has been given the impression of a democratic process ensuring fair play: in practice, the truth is that there has not been British fair play," he said.

Mr Robert Alexander, QC, counsel for the British Government, said it was wrong for the companies to assert that there was an intrinsic or real value to property. In order to arrive at the value of a company's shares, a method of valuation had to be adopted. Value did not exist separately or in isolation from the valuation method.

There was an inherent inconsistency in the approach of the companies. "Once they accept that an appropriate method has been chosen, they cannot say the valuation should be something different than the amount which has been produced." The companies accepted that the choice of the valuation method must be left to the Government, subject to the convention.

The 21-judge court is not expected to deliver its ruling before the end of the year.



LADY George-Brown (above) yesterday attended a memorial service for Lord George-Brown, who died earlier this month. She was his wife for 48 years until he left her in 1982.

Also at the service in St Margaret's Church, Westminster, were Lord and Lady Home and Lord and Lady Wilson (left).

Friends said farewell to Lord George-Brown with the song My Way, because, said his brother Ronald, it represented virtually everything he stood for. The song was performed by Tony Monopoly. Pictures by Don McPhee

Aids testing to start for two million blood donors

By Andrew Vetch, Medical Correspondent

Aids tests for 2 million blood donors are due to start by September it was disclosed yesterday.

An official announcement by health ministers and the test manufacturer, Wellcome, is expected next month. Other tests made by US companies may also be used.

The tests will cost the transfusion service an estimated £2 million a year. A senior Wellcome source said yesterday that the firm already had enough stocks to meet national demand.

Experts at the Government's infectious disease agency, the Public Health Laboratory Service, meet next week to finalise plans for six regional centres to re-check blood identified as positive by the Wellcome test.

The test, which identifies antibodies to the Aids virus, was developed by Dr Richard Tedder at the Maudsley Hospital, London, and Professor Robin Weiss, director of the Institute of Cancer Research.

The presence of antibodies shows that the blood donor has been infected; it does not show that the donor is infectious, or that the donor will develop the disease. The body's immune system may have destroyed the virus, leaving only antibodies. An estimated 10 per cent of people with antibodies develop the disease.

The Wellcome test has been chosen by the Department of Health in preference to US versions by Abbott Laboratories, Electro-Nucleonics, and DuPont, because it is considered to be more accurate and easier to use.

Concern centres on the number of false positive results. Leading US tests are 89 per cent accurate, but even at that standard between 4,000 and 21,000 British donors would be mistakenly identified as having been infected.

Donors found to be antibody-positive after re-checking will be warned that they risk spreading the infection by sexual intercourse, whether heterosexual or homosexual.

The Department of Health's decision to opt for the Wellcome test follows a warning in the British Medical Journal from the directors of all the UK haemophilia centres that patients needing massive blood transfusions may be running a one in 20 risk of being infected with the Aids virus in some areas.

The number of Aids patients rose by 10 to 169 last month; 78 have died.

Judge orders war zone switch

A High Court judge ordered yesterday to transfer to a businessman land in Beirut which was once the city's commercial centre and is now a battlefield.

Shi'ite, Druze and Christian gunmen exchange fire daily across the triangle of land which the Lebanese businessman claimed was bought with his money.

Mr Mark Lomas, counsel for

Mr Vahe Agababian, said that the businessman, of Whitehaven Close, Bromley, Kent, gave Mr Nabil al-Shawk, of Duncan Terrace, Islington, London, £20,000 to buy development land in 1979.

A High Court case in London last year was cut short when Mr al-Shawk agreed to transfer the land to Mr Agababian, but despite repeated requests he had not executed the transfer.

Mr Christopher McCall, for Mr al-Shawk, said that such a transfer order might not be enforceable in a Lebanese court. Mr Justice Harman said that an English court had power to make orders about the ownership of land abroad if the parties to the dispute were in this country.

"I hope the United States navy don't put too many shells on it," said the judge.

Tenants ask Runcie to delay home sales

By Martyn Halsall, Churches Correspondent

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, has been asked by tenants of the Church Commissioners to intervene in a controversial property sale in central London.

The commissioners, whose annual report will be published tomorrow, have been accused of high-handed uncooperation and acting in indecent haste to sell the property to fund clergy stipends.

The issue was raised in a letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury, signed by 100 tenants of the church's properties in the City of London, which is the most vulnerable.

The sale involves 34 properties on the Maida Vale estate, which the commissioners began to dispose of in 1981. More than 300 people have asked Dr Runcie to delay the sales for nine months to give groups of tenants time to attempt to buy their houses or make arrangements with housing associations of their choice.

Leicester Palace said it would be highly unlikely that Dr Runcie would intervene "in a matter which was within the commissioners' own management and administrative responsibility."

Most of the commissioners' tenants occupy bed-sitters or basement flats in buildings they have lived in for up to 40 years. Many are said to be anxious about the future, despite their rights under the fair rent system.

"The archbishop's very welcome and, for these days, outspoken comments ring very hollow for some of his flock in Maida Vale," said Mr Peter West, secretary of the Westminster, Covent Garden and Neighbourhood Tenants' Association.

He claimed that tenants had received letters from Chestertons, the estate agents, only a few days before their properties were advertised on the open market in four parcels, with guide prices of between £750,000 and £1.5 million a parcel. Completion was to be by September. This was the commissioners' offer of "consultation," "unusually haste," said Mr West.

A spokesman for the Church Commissioners said: "Perhaps in retrospect the timing of the sale announcements was a little bit close, but however much you consult people on these decisions, there will always be somebody left out in the cold."

Robot returns home

THE CASE of the robot who was sent to a restaurant, knocking over furniture and frightening the customers, was settled out of court yesterday. Later the robot, known as Dante, was returned to its London manufacturer, Projects Barlow, for an overhaul.

Projects Barlow had sued FGH Systems of Edinburgh for £4,887, the purchase price of the second-hand robot. FGH Systems, which supplied Dante to the Kavi restaurant, refused to pay, saying it could not send an account to the restaurant when the robot did not work.

The Court of Session in Edinburgh had been told that the robot was used as a wine waiter to serve customers in the restaurant. But soon after it was installed, in July 1983, it began to spill wine and became erratic and

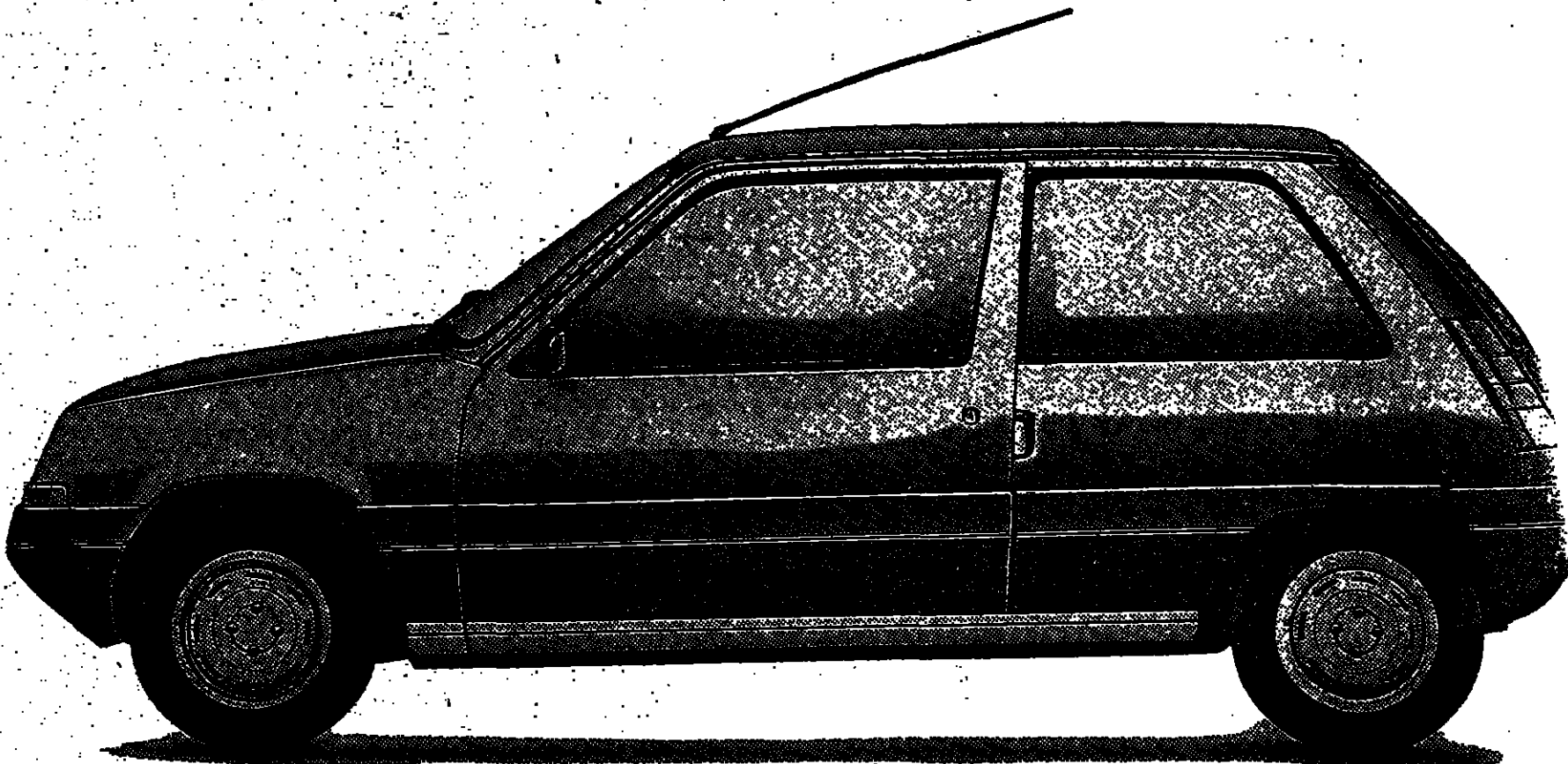
uncontrollable, finally dropping the plastic wine bowl into a customer's lap.

Yesterday counsel for Projects Barlow informed Lord Davidson that certain payments would be made to the company by FGH Systems, and the robot would be returned to it in London. The terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

An engineer from the London company said he thought the restaurant had undercharged the robot's battery or plugged it into the wrong socket.

On being told of the settlement, Lord Davidson commented: "I regret I have been denied the opportunity of being further instructed in some robotic practice. I am, after all, a robot. I have, however, been instructed in the art of settling out of court."

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Gay books 'seized on basis of summary by staff'

By Nicholas de Jongh, Arts Correspondent

The Customs officer who led the raid on Gay's the Word bookshop in London told a court yesterday that his decision to seize 800 titles was based primarily on what the manager, Mr Paul Hegarty, told him about each book.

"Mr Hegarty gave me a description of the titles and on the basis of that I decided which to take," he said.

The officer, Mr David Odd, was giving evidence at North London magistrates' court on the third day of criminal proceedings in which eight directors and one staff member of Gay's the Word bookshop are charged with conspiring to import indecent or obscene material and other offences against Customs Acts.

Earlier Mr Geoffrey Robertson, counsel for the defendants, said that the joys of Lesbian Sex, one of eight titles named in charges as a prohibited import, had been categorised as not obscene in a 1982 Customs declaration.

Mr Robertson was cross-examining another Customs officer, Mr Colin Woodgate, who was in charge of "Operation Tiger" against the bookshop.

He showed the Customs declaration letter to Mr Woodgate, who replied: "All I can say is that letter may be taken out of context." Later he added: "I can only say there may be reasons why that importer was sent that letter."

Seizure notices had been delivered to Gay's the Word for The Joys of Lesbian Sex.

Asked how importers could know what material infringed the Customs unpublished guidelines, Mr Woodgate said: "If they were to approach the office with a sample of each book, a ruling would be given."

Mr Robertson quoted a press statement issued by the Customs and Excise Commissioners last September saying that they could not say what criteria were involved in their decisions on obscenity and indecency.

Mr Robertson again asked Mr Woodgate what an importer of books related to homosexuality and lesbianism should do, in view of the Customs' silence. Mr Woodgate said: "I have not been involved in policy."

Mr Woodgate told the court that the Gay's the Word case was his first involvement with literary work: "I've been involved with pornography, but merely with pictures."

He had not heard of Jean Genet, Allen Ginsberg, Ezra Pound or Catullus before the raid.

Denying a suggestion that the code name "Operation Tiger" had been chosen as indicative of "aggression and machismo," Mr Woodgate said: "The only answer I can give, which may sound rather ridiculous, is that it was named after my cat. I have a pet cat called Tiger."

The case continues today.

Art promotion

A former Birmingham Post arts and features editor, Mr Anthony Everett, aged 45, director of East Midlands Arts, has been appointed deputy secretary-general of the Arts Council.

Commons committee says Commission for Racial Equality gave unreliable evidence

MPs denounce immigration service critics



John Wheeler: "No case against officers."

By Susan Thirbatt

Reprehensible, unfounded generalisations and unsubstantiated old anecdotes have been used against the Home Office's immigration and nationality department, MPs said yesterday.

Mr John Wheeler, Conservative chairman of the Commons home affairs committee, singled out the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) and the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants. However, he exempted the United Kingdom Immigrant Advisory Service which was "extremely honourable and hard-working and does not fall within the criticism we have expressed."

He said after the committee's report was released that members did not give much credence to criticisms of the service by the other two bodies, including sexual harassment of immigrants by immigration officers.

"We found that those who

gave evidence were really unable to produce real evidence of maladministration or improper conduct on the part of the department or its immigration officers. The evidence was very often of a vague and insubstantial nature based on rumour or third-hand experience."

"We did not receive evidence to suppose that there is wrongdoing in the way the service is operating. We want to make it perfectly clear that it is reprehensible that a body of civil servants and immigration officers should be placed under a cloud by ill-founded generalisations and unsubstantiated anecdotes."

However, the MPs' report notes lack of confidence in the process for dealing with complaints and says that the department's complaints procedure should be revised to include independent participation. The number of immigration officers from ethnic minorities should be increased.

The MPs' recommendation that the Home Office should consider extending the practice of charging airlines or airport authorities for some of the services provided by the department when an opportunity arises for amending legislation, passengers refused entry should be given more help in seeking advice about their position from other authorities and bodies.

They call for improved facilities for detained visitors and say that reorganisation or replacement of the Queen's Building detention facilities at Heathrow should be a matter of urgency. The department should provide more and better information for visitors they deal with.

Priority should be given to nationality cases where women settled in Britain are prevented from being joined by husbands who delay obtaining citizenship, says the report.

Unfounded criticisms are

used to create an atmosphere of mistrust of immigration officials, say the MPs. "We do not regard this as in any way helpful to race relations and it is likely to divert attention away from other areas genuinely in need of reform."

However, the committee challenges the Home Office to justify its assumption that there is pressure to emigrate from some countries, notably the Indian sub-continent, which is central to its immigration control policy and queuing system.

A spokesman for the CRE said that the committee was wrong to say that the commission had relied on anecdotal evidence.

The CRE report on immigration control procedures, singled out by the committee, was based on interviews, observations and reference to relevant files. The Home Office had checked it for accuracy and corrections had been made

to points which were challenged. Mrs Fiona Macgarratt, general secretary of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, said: "I think it is regrettable that they have made these unfounded criticisms against the JCWI."

The home affairs committee's report was produced by Mr Wheeler, Mr Gerald Bermingham (Labour), Mr Jeremy Hanley (Conservative) and Mr John Hunt (Conservative).

Mr David Waddington, a Home Office minister, welcomed their findings but said "I and the officials concerned share their view that we must continue to strive to eliminate bad practice and improve standards of service."

House of Commons home affairs committee, session 1984-85, report on immigration and nationality department of the Home Office. Stationery Office, 28.50.

Architects say home repair cash will fall

By Geoff Andrews, Local Government Correspondent

The Government's plans for housing improvement reform will drastically reduce the size of the grant available to private home repairs, the Royal Institute of British Architects said yesterday.

Owners would have to fill the gap created by the proposals, contained in a green paper. "The assumption that they will be able to do this—in view of competing demands on household incomes—or will be able to do so in all cases, is highly questionable," said the RIBA.

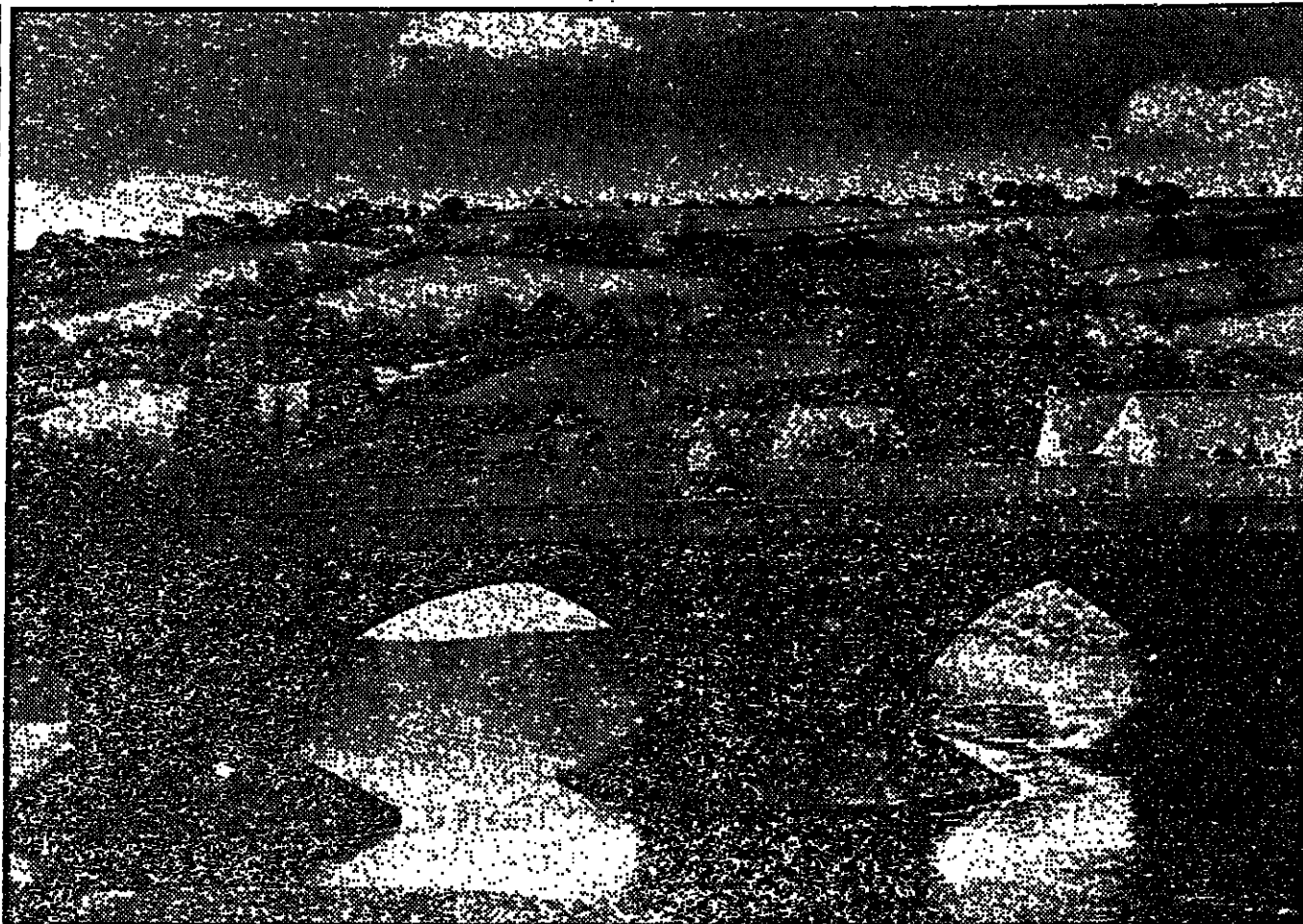
It is also seeking clarification of the means-testing elements of the paper. Its president, Mr Michael Manser, said: "At first the green paper appears to have much to commend it—until you realise that this is a Treasury-inspired exercise whose primary aim is to reduce by three-quarters the public money available for this much-needed work."

An RIBA survey claimed that cuts in funding meant that a disproportionate amount was being spent on emergency repairs caused by lack of routine maintenance. The housing repair survey based on a response from local authorities shows a "considerable backlog of repair and maintenance in urban areas has accumulated and is now increasing."

The report says: "As the average age of private housing stock increases so will the need for refurbishment schemes. It seems likely that many of the defects to postwar system-built housing have yet to be discovered."

Mr Edward Heath, the former Conservative prime minister, told the annual conference of the Institute of Housing in Harrogate yesterday that a full-scale house-building programme was needed to create jobs and replace old homes. It was entirely superficial and fallacious to say that this would cause inflation.

Susan Thirbatt adds: Mr Peter Peacock, whose scheme for a 280ft tower block in the City of London was rejected by the Environment Secretary last month, called yesterday for controversial buildings to be demolished after 66 years unless it was in the public interest to keep them.



UNTRUBLED WATERS: Electors pause for a peaceful moment at Brecon, out of earshot of the by-election campaign

Party sums show 3 winners in Brecon

Dennis Johnson tunes in on the sound of calculation as candidates weigh the odds

THE hills of Brecon and Radnor are alive with the sound of calculation as good, sane MPs of all parties pause, by signpost and river bridge, to work out for the umpteenth time the likely odds in what promises to be the most closely fought by-election for many years.

Outside the butcher's shop in Brecon where Cyril Smith ostentatiously bought some Welsh lamb for his mother yesterday, a small group of politicians and journalists stand in a circle making geometric gestures with hands and arms to demonstrate the slicing of the Conservative vote and the solidifying of the Labour run.

It is a puzzle. For Cyril, speaking at a Liberal press conference, the calculation was of manifest simplicity. "Even the man who goes to a farmer's meeting in polished Wellingtons knows the Tory vote won't hold up," he said. "And they ain't going to vote Labour."

But maybe Labour could do without many of them anyway? One of the subtlest sums worked out by a leading Labour figure yesterday was more like 12,000 than the 9,000 obtained at the general election, when there were losses to the Liberals.

While this base would be restored, the Liberals were starting off with more like 6,000 and therefore needed a colossal boost from disenfranchised Tories before they could get a sniff of victory in a constituency with a total electorate of only 48,000.

Almost as if he had anticipated this ghastly canard, the Liberal agent and organiser, Mr Andrew Ellis, produced his first set of canvass figures yesterday, clearly aiming to suggest that truth lay elsewhere. In the past 10 days his team has canvassed

38 per cent of the voters, a creditable achievement, he thought, in such country.

Of these, he said, 31 per cent were still undecided. Of the remainder the preferences were Liberal 35 per cent, Labour 24, Conservatives 28, Plaid Cymru 2, others 1.

The Conservative, Mr Chris Butler, doesn't seem to mind admitting some losses, though semantics are important to him. He was asked if his vote was crumbling. "No, don't read more into my words than I have said," he replied.

It is upon these subtleties that the campaign edges towards its climax. The Liberal, Mr Richard Livesey, having earlier been accused of carelessness with words, was excessively cautious yesterday over expressing his pre-

view on the importance of army firing ranges at Sennybridge.

Yet, what promised to be the subtlest evening so far, a speech by Mr Francis Pym, in favour of a self-avowed Thatcherite, was an even bigger flop than the launching of Centre Forward. Nobody in the church hall at Bulth Wells seemed to care.

Mr Pym laboured on about having "some forceful things to say" about unemployment while condemning the failure of the "self-styled" One Nation Conservative standing in the by-election. The audience dozed, and at the end no one asked him a single question.

The Labour candidate, Richard Willey, said new figures showed that in the year ended April 1985 unemployment in Brecon and Radnor increased by nearly 17 per cent, compared with 6 per cent for Wales as a whole.

General election: (L) E. Hughes (C) 12,200; (Lab) 9,200; (C) 8,000; (P) 2,000; (O) 1,000. (L) 278 C. 200, 8,700.

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Oil spill may kill 5,000 sea birds

By Paul Heyland, Welsh Correspondent

BETWEEN 2,000 and 5,000 birds are expected to die after an oil spillage off the West Wales coast which inflicted a heavy toll on island reserves.

The full extent of the tragedy is only now becoming clear as dead seabirds are washed up on Pembrokeshire's holiday beaches 12 days after the Bridgwen tanker was holed on the Hats and Barrels rocks, 17 miles offshore.

Although less than 200 tonnes of heavy fuel oil escaped into the sea, it caused as much damage to the bird colonies at the height of the breeding season as when the Christmas Bites tanker lost 2,500 tonnes after striking the same rocks seven years ago.

While the 38,000-tonne Christmas Bites attracted national headlines and urgent action by the authorities, some conservationists believed that the threat from the 2,000-tonne Bridgwen was underestimated.

The RSPCA's assistant wildlife officer for England and Wales, Mr Paul Vadden, said yesterday that a decision not to place booms around the oil spillage had caused great annoyance.

The society supported a call from the West Wales Trust for Nature Conservation that shipping should be banned from a 10-mile-wide corridor near the island sanctuaries outside Milford Haven.

"Resolute action is immediately required by all concerned if we are not to see another incident, possibly much worse than the Christmas Bites and the Bridgwen," said Mr David Saunders, secretary of the trust. "The Pembrokeshire coast and its wild life is much too precious to be further endangered."

The Department of Transport said it would consider the trust's request. A spokesman added that it had not been practical to put booms around the oil spillage because it had covered a large area.

"The Bridgwen accident happened in bright sunlight with very good visibility," said Mr Vadden. "It was in exactly the same place as the Christmas Bites. We would like to see penalties imposed on any vessels that go into that area."

A marine inspector is investigating, and the Department of Transport will decide whether to hold a public inquiry.

The RSPCA said its inspectors had risked their lives rescuing polluted birds on Pembrokeshire's islands. Seventy had been transferred to the national bird cleaning unit near Taunton.

Five hundred dead birds have been recovered so far, and thousands more are believed to be slowly dying. The society has reluctantly agreed to stay away from islands where the inspectors might panic colonies nesting on cliffs, causing even more fatalities.

District auditors facing new Clay Cross

Alan Dunn on the work caused by the defiance of Labour's rate-capped rebels

District auditors are about to be thrust somewhat reluctantly into the public gaze in pursuit of government policy for the first time since the Clay Cross affair in Derbyshire 10 years ago.

The 13 district auditors in England and Wales know that, with a new list of rate-capped councils to be announced soon, an even heavier workload lies ahead as Labour councils harden their defiance of the Government's financial policy for local authorities.

For Mr Brian Skinner, the metropolitan district auditor, and Mr Timothy McMahon, in Chester, the sending of notices of debt which were expected to arrive today for about 80 Labour councillors at Lambeth and Liverpool after their failure to make a rate up to a level process that could lead to the council's being surcharged, made bankrupt, and banned from public office later this year.

The process took longer—about three years—than the Clay Cross, where 11 councillors were made bankrupt after initially refusing to raise rents.

District auditors have been checking public spending for a century, but have had increased influence since 1983 when the Government set up the Audit Commission to run the local government audit service, whose independence had become devalued by being attached to government departments. Scotland and Ulster have their own audit bodies.

Under the 1983 Local Government Finance Act the non-profit-making commission organises the monitoring of council spending and promotes better management practices. Ten reports have been issued on such subjects as collecting council rent arrears, rubbish collection, social services for the old and, last week, further education.

These emerge after long talks with councils and other public bodies by audit staff, and are followed by check visits to see whether a report's findings are being observed. The audit services' 550 mostly male staff have thus been brought into even closer contact with local government staff, to the point where they are almost accepted as council employees.

At Lambeth and Liverpool the district auditors' staff continued to work in council offices throughout the Labour council's publicised defiance of government rates policy until last week.

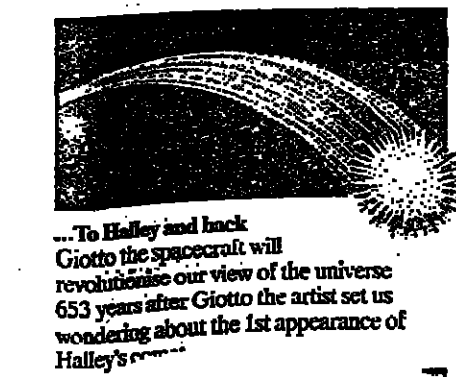
But councils are legally bound to give the auditors the documents and information they require. The councils pay for the £15 million-a-year service at the rate of £170 a man-day.

The audit service, with separate headquarters in Bristol, covers about 70 per cent of councils. The rest are audited by large private firms, which charge £150 a man-day. Of the 13 geographical districts generally, has a district auditor, two deputies, and about 40 staff split into teams of about five based at convenient offices in the district. Qualified auditors stand at £13,000 a year, with district auditors receiving more than £20,000.

The Audit Commission's staff of 60, headed by Mr John Banham, are based in London, where the governing body of 15 part-time commissioners meets monthly to review and authorise the publication of the special reports. The 15 come from industry, local government, accountancy, and the Lawrie Barrow, the housing firm; Mr Ian Hay Davidson, chief executive of Lloyd's of London; and Mr John Gunnell, leader of West Yorkshire county council.

It is the independent district auditors, however, who will be at the sharp end of the political battle over budgeting between Labour councils and the Government. They are determined to uphold and work quasi-judicial roles in ensuring that councils set a legal rate could make them appear again to some people, to be part of the state machinery.

Journey to the comet's core and more...



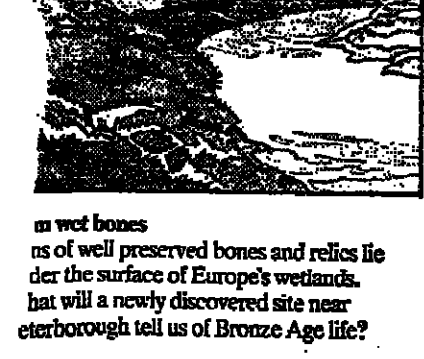
...To Halley and back. Giotto the spacecraft will revolutionise our view of the universe 653 years after Giotto the artist set us wondering about the 1st appearance of Halley's comet.



Just a sec. Sunday, the last day of June will last longer than 24 hours. The Greenwich time signal will pip seven times instead of six. Why is time standing still?



in wet bones as well preserved bones and relics lie under the surface of Europe's wetlands. hat will a newly discovered site near ectorborough tell us of Bronze Age life?



entist ith the jobs. Every Thursday.

Disc jockey on murder charge hanged himself

A radio disc jockey who had been charged with murdering his former girl friend carefully padded his cell bed to convince prison guards he was asleep in it. Then he left letters to his family and friends on a small table before hanging himself with a twisted bed sheet behind the cell door, an inquest in Lincoln heard yesterday.

A jury returned a verdict that 25-year-old Graham Neale committed suicide in cell nine of the hospital wing at Lincoln gaol on June 6.

Neale, who had been a disc jockey with Radio Trent, Nottingham, was charged with murdering 24-year-old Lynne Goldingay. Her body was found in a wood not far from the M1 in Nottinghamshire three days after she vanished in March. She had severe head injuries.

The couple had lived together for about two years before Miss Goldingay left and formed an association with Mr Duncan McCracken, son of a doctor.

Mr McCracken was found dead in his car on May 29. A subsequent inquest resulted in a verdict that he took his own life.

A prison inmate, Peter Holland, told yesterday's inquest that Neale became depressed after learning of McCracken's death because he thought it would affect his chances of getting a light sentence.

Dr Ronald Rannan-Eliya, senior prison medical officer, said he gave Neale a sedative on the evening before his death because he thought it was in any way an intention to take his own life.

Neale lived in Brendecaster Close, Cinderhill, Nottingham, and Lynne Goldingay, in Hildring Road, Msperry, Nottingham.

Nuclear decision defended

By Richard Norton-Taylor

The decision by the first Wilson government to maintain a British nuclear deterrent after the Labour leadership had previously campaigned against it enabled Britain to secure financial help from the United States, the former Prime Minister says in an in-

in-touight. "In order that they (the Americans) could get us to agree to some of the things they wanted we got them to agree a few of the things we wanted, like money," Lord Wilson says. He adds that he never believed that the British nuclear deterrent was really independent.

"On the other hand," he adds, "I didn't want to be in the position of having to subordinate ourselves to the Americans when they at a certain point, would say, 'Oh, we're going to use it, or something of that kind.'"

Lord Wilson, interviewed by Peter Hennessy in a new BBC Radio 3 series, The Quality of Cabinet Government, says that he discussed important financial and defence matters, including a decision to go ahead with the Chevaline Polaris improvement programme in 1974, with only a small group of ministers, because he was worried about leaks.

"It isn't a question of not trusting. It's a question that the more people you have, the more people can get at, for example by backbenchers who then start to press Cabinet ministers," he says.

Cruelty 'link to divorce'

Marital conflict is the biggest single factor in child abuse, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children said yesterday.

Children are often the victims of parents ignorant of the traumatic effect their quarrels have, says the society.

In six years to 1983 marital discord featured in 57 per cent of the NSPCC's cruelty cases. Dr Alan Gilmore, the NSPCC's director, said: "All too often the children are the ones who get hurt most when parents are having marriage troubles."

Court proceedings can make problems worse said Dr Gilmore. "What is needed is a simple one-court system to deal with child care and family matters."

Video dictionary helps to teach deaf children

By Peter Large, Technology Correspondent

A deaf research psychologist has devised a method of teaching deaf children by using computer-controlled video discs.

Mr Chris Jones, aged 39, has perfected his video dictionary after 18 months' work at the Donaldson School for the Deaf in Edinburgh. He has had the help of Heriot Watt University, the Department of Trade and Industry, and the Philips electronics group.

A video disc brings together in one container moving and still pictures, and written and spoken words. It can hold more than 50,000 separate picture frames on each side. When a disc read by laser

Video dictionary helps to teach deaf children

beam is also controlled by a micro-computer the user can call any part of that library to the television screen.

Mr Jones has put a dictionary into a disc so that when a word is typed on the computer keyboard the screen shows the sign language version, plus a picture, plus definitions. He has also put children's books into a disc, with instant links to the dictionary. The words are spoken by a deaf child, and to learn sign language themselves.

Finally, Mr Jones has used discs to develop other teaching programmes. A BBC TV story, Ivor the Engine, is used to help reading and comprehension.

District
auditors
facing
new Clay
Cross



JAMES WATT FIGURED IT OUT

He didn't actually invent the steam engine. Nor did he get the idea watching his mother's teakettle, as we were told. For one thing his mother was dead, and for another the Newcomen engine already existed, though it was inefficient, slow, expensive, and used only for pumping water in mines.

Its single chamber had to be heated and cooled to condense steam and then slowly reheated, wasting vast quantities of fuel.

In 1764, Watt came up with the idea of using two chambers, one cool and one hot. He also applied steam to both sides of the piston for extra speed. He invented the device that converted the piston's movement into the turn of a wheel, and the Industrial Revolution was born.

The companies of United Technologies didn't invent the jet engine, either. Or printing, or lifts, or helicopters. But like Watt, we've made some dramatic improvements here and there.

Patt & Whitney, GEC, Carrier, Sikorsky, Messer and Immort are some of the divisions of United Technologies Corporation, Hartford, Connecticut, USA. In the United Kingdom our operations include GEC, Brown, Boveri and Walsworth's, Fiat, automotive divisions, Autocore test equipment, Packard Instruments Ltd, Spectrol, electronic components, Automotive electrical systems, Insulation Systems and Machines Ltd, Carrier air conditioning, Motek semiconductors and Elliott turbomachinery.

UNITED TECHNOLOGIES

primary help
of children

Saarland revokes political vetting of employees

Leftwingers win battle to keep Civil Service jobs

From Anna Tomforde in Bonn

West Germany's controversial practice of checking the constitutional loyalty of left and right-wingers in the civil service received a double blow with two court acquittals yesterday and the abolition of the practice in the Saarland, ruled by Social Democrats.

The federal disciplinary court in Frankfurt ruled that Mr Wolfgang Repp, a civil servant employed by the post office, can continue to work as a postman as he has done for the past 20 years.

The Ministry of Posts and Communications had wanted to remove Mr Repp from the postal service because he stood as a candidate for the Moscow-supported German Communist Party (DKP).

The court ruled that his activity for the party could not be regarded as illegal and his banning from the civil service merely on the grounds of party membership was not justified. Mr Repp has suffered a 40 per cent salary reduction since the ministry suspended him to begin proceedings in 1979.

In the north German town of Lüneburg yesterday, a court acquitted a 35-year-old teacher, also ruling that his membership of the DKP did not constitute a violation of his constitutional loyalty and his duty. More than 20 teachers

are now on trial in the state of Lower Saxony.

Although the small DKP is legal in West Germany and entitled to contest elections, it is regarded as "hostile to the Constitution".

The rulings came a day after the Saarland, where the Social Democrats regained power after 20 years last March, became the first state to revoke the controversial 1972 guidelines on the employment of extremists in the public service.

The Saarland interior ministry said that the rules, applied with varying vigour in West Germany's 11 states, according to their political colouring, had created an atmosphere of fear and intimidation and damaged West Germany's reputation abroad. The Saarland government wanted to set a signal for more tolerance and against "political snooping".

Several other Social Democratic states have welcomed the move and are expected to follow the Saarland's example, while Christian Democrat-run states spoke of a scandalous decision. The Bonn government said it would maintain the guidelines for civil service employment at federal level.

Under the guidelines, introduced by the former Social Democrat chancellor, Mr Willy Brandt in 1972, aimed at controlling the influence of then rebellious student genera-

tion, civil service employers are free to check the loyalty of applicants beyond the routine requirement that anyone who joins the civil service must guarantee to defend the existing political order.

Although the guidelines apply in theory to both left and rightwing extremists, they have almost exclusively been used against the left. Public sector workers in West Germany are considered civil servants.

Critics say that the decree, by institutionalising intelligence checks, has led to widespread abuse, particularly in conservative states. According to the committee against professional bans (Berufshilfe), the political loyalty of about 6.5 million applicants has been checked, and proceedings have been started or bans imposed in about 7,000 cases.

A spokesman for the committee in Hamburg said yesterday that it had registered more than 1,000 cases where applicants were barred from entering the civil service, or civil servants had been removed from their jobs.

The procedure has been criticised mainly because exclusion can result from meagre evidence such as the signing of peace campaigners' petitions, visits to East bloc countries, or a person's attitude to the deployment of medium-range missiles.

Britain decries 'paper chase'

From Susan Morgan in Sydney

THE AUSTRALIAN Royal Commission, inquiring into British nuclear testing, has been accused of emphasising facts detrimental to the British case, while playing down those not adverse, by counsel for the British Government, Mr Robin Auld QC.

Documents have been poorly prepared and parties before the commission have been unable to identify or read some of the papers — which are not yet on the commission's computer listing, said Mr Auld. Many had not been read by commission staff themselves.

Mr Auld read a statement to the commission, stating his complaints. He said the job of research staff was to collect and collate material for the commission's assisting counsel, Mr Peter McClellan, to consider as potential evidence.

Mr Auld said the selection of material documents, Mr McClellan should have regard to all the interests that are represented or that may need to be considered, Mr Auld said.

"Over the past eight weeks, I and I believe other counsel too, have informally expressed concern to Mr McClellan about the lack of preparation for the commission and parties of bundles of material documents from the Australian files."

"A start should have been made on this months ago, long before the commission came to the United Kingdom, in the tenth month of the inquiry, within one month of the programmed close of evidence and two months of final submissions."

Mr Auld said the commission staff have begun to prepare a bundle. At the moment it consists of one file containing about 300 documents.

The commission, he said, had also been selective in what documents it emphasised. "The documents that are not in the bundle but which are not adverse to the United Kingdom are mostly left untagged," Mr Auld said.

Mr Auld identified the problems he had come across, and some encountered by members of the British delegation. He said that the representative of the Ministry of Defence who went to Australia to discuss British documents in Australian files had been "frustrated by the commission staff, and (they) continuing to refer him to his task," Mr Auld said.

"I understand that Mr Atkinson (the commission's secretary) has now directed that the commission staff are not to be responsible for preparing the United Kingdom review with files containing United Kingdom classified material for review," Mr Auld said.

"In all the respects that I have mentioned, the mismanagement of the commission is very serious. It is an undermining of this inquiry and the resulting report."

The commission's president, Mr James McClellan, said the allegations raised by Mr Auld were very serious. "They amount, in my view, to an assertion that counsel assisting the commission and commission staff have deliberately obstructed his client," Mr McClellan said.

Mr McClellan said that the British authorities with the mass of documents in their possession, are on that account in the dark as to material relevant to this inquiry.

After an adjournment, Mr McClellan made a detailed reply to Mr Auld's complaints, saying many statements were just totally wrong and others offensive.

"No doubt this course has been adopted to attract publicity to the fact that the British Government has made a complaint, however unjustified that complaint may appear after detailed scrutiny," Mr McClellan said.

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Jacques Delors: Call to reject British proposals

EEC told to end veto rights

BRUSSELS: The European Commission President, Mr Jacques Delors, appealed yesterday for an end to the right of veto which has hindered community development and rejected the setting up of a separate body to deal with foreign policy.

Speaking at a news conference, he urged European Community leaders to make first moves towards the gradual elimination of the veto right at their summit in Milan tomorrow. He asked them to reject British-backed proposals for a separate foreign and security policy secretariat, saying that the emergence of separate bodies for economic and political affairs, potentially in conflict with each other, was inconceivable.

Mr Delors said the commission, which handles the day-to-day affairs of the community, needed to have a political dimension, especially to enable it to handle foreign trade issues and look after the interests of smaller member states. He said the question of voting had to be resolved in order to improve the community's efficiency and called for majority voting to become the rule.

Although unanimity was not required in all cases under Community treaties, he said, the daily work of the Community was now dictated by unanimity and the threat of larger countries to use their right of veto.

Earlier this month, West Germany vetoed a proposed cut in cereal prices after opposing the right of veto for many years. Mr Delors also said a proposed technology community to compete with US and Japanese high-technology should be launched under a community umbrella.

Mr Delors also called for a wider role for the European Parliament in community affairs, arguing this was essential for the democratic process. — Reuter.

Official press reports quoted from the speech, which was made on Tuesday and which Western diplomats said was apparently not reported in detail by other Eastern bloc media.

The diplomats said the most bitter criticism was aimed at Comecon's failure to raise prices for Hungarian agricultural exports to other Eastern bloc states, a move which had been agreed at last June's Comecon economic summit in Moscow.

"We have to state with regret that although we have been negotiating for many years, we have not yet reached agreement on conditions which would encourage the production of agriculture and food industry products, and deliveries to markets, Mr Lázár was quoted as saying.

He complained of serious delays in Comecon planning and agreed that the processes which caused investment costs to soar.

Western diplomats said he indicated that Hungary, eager for reform and economic improvement, was not prepared to compromise with the Communist economic bloc.

Hungary has been reforming its economy since 1980 with decentralisation, creation of small-scale private enterprise, and more profit and loss responsibility in state concerns.

The reforms have been praised in the West, notably by the World Bank, which regards Hungary as the best example of the bloc. Some East European states are following the reforms.

"Working out economic and technical conditions of joint investment and exploring them in a way conducive to decision making has to be accelerated."

Kassabian admitted that the row had been "choreographed to some extent" in the hope of producing a breakthrough.

The suspicion exists that President Reagan, whom Congress is anxious to pin down for his spendthrift ways, would find a stalemate politically convenient. Last year, the two houses sweated it out for 100 days over the military budget before compromising, but this is the worst dispute about the entire budget for some years.

In theory, a continued stalemate would lead both houses to attempt to impose their own version of the cuts through the amounts of cash they voted to allow the Administration to spend next year, but this lacks credibility. Failure would "show all the wrong signals. It would show we don't have the guts to wade into things that are killing us," Senator Alan

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Simpson, a Wyoming republican, said.

The house has voted by an overwhelming 411-4 after an angry debate on a bill which would tighten defence procurement practices and make it easier to send fraudulent contractors to jail for up to five years.

The bill would increase the powers of the Pentagon's own watchdog, the Inspector General, makes it harder for Pentagon staff to work for contractors, and increase competitive tendering for contracts.

In the present angry mood, even the beleaguered Defence Secretary, Mr Casper Weinberger, under attack from left and right-distanced himself from the Reagan line in congressional testimony this week.

He came out in favour of a tax reform which would stop the defence contractors paying few taxes.

CIA gives missile forecast

From Mark Tran in Washington

CIA officials went to Capitol Hill yesterday with a new report giving details of increased Russian nuclear missile production and Soviet plans for their own Star Wars programme.

The CIA Deputy Director for Intelligence, Mr Robert Gates, and the CIA National Intelligence Officer for Strategic Programmes, Mr Lawrence Gershtwin, told congressmen: "The Soviets have the main components for an ABM system that could be used for widespread ABM deployment well in excess of ABM treaty limits."

They contended that, by the 1990s, the Soviet Union will be able to enhance its existing ABM system around Moscow to shield key targets in the western Soviet Union. In addition, the CIA projects that Soviet ABM defences will be capable of extending the reach of its ballistic missile defence system to cover key targets east of the Ural Mountains where a large part of the Soviet strategic weapons bases are located.

Prepared by the top officials of the CIA and the National Intelligence Council, the report gave a grim assessment of Soviet potential in a world without arms control agreements, emphasising that Moscow is well placed and ready for another round in the arms race despite domestic economic strain.

The report said that the most notable trend is the Soviet emphasis on mobile missiles, with Moscow planning to deploy large numbers of mobile ICBMs and to have test flights within five years of new versions of two ICBMs not yet deployed — the land-based and rail-transported single warhead SS-25 and the road-transported 10-warhead SS-20.

The report estimates that the Soviet Union has the capability — if it disregards SALT 2 limitations — to increase the number of nuclear warheads of its ICBMs to as many as 21,000 by the mid-1990s. A Pentagon official cautioned that the forecasts "are projections, not facts, and there is a lot of uncertainty in those estimates."

Pentagon officials said that the decision to report on intelligence estimates in a public hearing was designed to muster support for President Reagan's military budget. Conservatives in Congress have long argued for more public reporting of intelligence data, saying this would help the President's case.

Some officials think that the bleak picture of the Soviet build up would help Mr Reagan respond in kind to what he says are Soviet arms control violations.

Mr Reagan agreed this month to abide by the limits of the unratified SALT II treaty, but asked the Pentagon for a mid-November report on possible US steps if reported Soviet transgressions continue.

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Some officials think that the bleak picture of the Soviet build up would help Mr Reagan respond in kind to what he says are Soviet arms control violations.

Gorbachev pours scorn on Reagan for arms deadlock

Moscow: The Soviet leader

Mr Mikhail Gorbachev said the US development of space weapons is completely blocking progress at the Geneva arms control talks and warned that Moscow will revise its attitude to the talks unless US policy changes.

Development of the Star Wars programme and other weapons indicated that the US was not seriously interested in reaching agreement at Geneva, Mr Gorbachev told metal workers during a visit to the industrial centre of Dnepropetrovsk in the Ukraine.

"Far from having made serious proposals in Geneva on folding up the arms race, the Americans, conversely, are taking steps which are making the process impossible," he said.

Mr Gorbachev vowed that "the Soviet Union, if it faces the real prospect of space war, will find a means effectively to counter it. Let no one have any doubts about it."

He accused the United States of using the Geneva talks to waste time and to continue a build-up of arms in space, on earth, and at sea. "This is a serious danger," he said, "and of course, we will have to reassess the entire situation. We just cannot allow the talks to be used as a decoy, as a cover for military preparations, the purpose of which is to ensure the strategic superiority of the US and its course of achieving world dominance."

Key officials of the US and the Soviet Union will confront each other in public debate today on the arms race and nuclear proliferation.

Mr Richard Perle, the US Assistant Secretary for De-

fence, known for his hardline attitude, said the Soviet Union and its resistance to arms control agreements is one of the speakers. Another is Mr Georgi Arbatov, the head of the Soviet Union's Institute of US and Canada Studies, who has made no secret of his belief that advisers such as Mr Perle bear a heavy responsibility for the deterioration of relations and the deadlock in Geneva.

A three-day conference, of which the debate is part, has been organised by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan who has also invited participants, many with conflicting views, from the Third World, European countries, and China. The principal object is to review the nuclear arms race since the signature in 1968 of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

The 124 countries which have signed the treaty are due to review its effect on arms control at a formal conference to be held in Geneva in September.

Both events are certain to produce bitter complaints against all the nuclear powers. The superpowers are now on the verge of extending the arms race to space, and this week's debates in Geneva will focus on the Strategic Defence Initiative as well as on Soviet intransigence in negotiations.

Vice-President George Bush and several US senators arrive here before the end of the week. The American team of arms control negotiators in Geneva is facing a severe traffic jam in briefing all the visitors on the arms negotiations with the Soviet Union. They will no doubt confirm the widespread impression that the negotiations are at an impasse with the Soviet Union refusing to negotiate unless the US agrees to talk about Star Wars.

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Mr Nyet takes credit for making UN work

From Martin Walker in Moscow

The world's veteran diplomat yesterday celebrated the 40th anniversary of his signing the UN Charter with a speech in which he claimed that the charter "embodied Lenin's basic idea of international co-operation irrespective of states' differing social and economic systems."

Mr Nyet said that the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Gromyko, was his country's first permanent representative at the UN, where he earned the nickname "Mr Nyet" after announcing

25 Soviet vetoes. He said yesterday: "Despite the tensions and trouble spots, the peoples of the world still look to the UN with hope."

We take pride in the fact that we were able to make the UN work according to the principles of its charter, thanks to Soviet initiatives which breathed life into an organisation that was suffering from the cold war. We have ever the struggle for peace and for life on earth is taking place, the UN will always find the Soviet state standing at its shoulder."

At the heart of the budget row remain irreconcilable differences between the Republican Senate's compromise on defence spending, inflation plus 3 per cent (\$303 billion) and the Democratic House's view that spending should be contained at 1985 levels (\$281 billion).

The other side of the equation is the House's commitment to be backed by public opinion polls — to raise social security payments, including the full cost of living increase for 1985,

the prediction from one Democrat that the damage done by publicly surrounding \$7,000 Pentagon coffee pots would hurt the Defence Department for years — just as stories about "welfare mothers drinking vodka and driving Cadillacs" had hit the press.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Assassin misses target

A GUNMAN yesterday opened fire on the General Controller of the French armed forces as he drove to work in Paris. A police spokesman said:

The man fired twice at the car of Mr René Audran, but missed him and the vehicle.

Police said the attack, in the western Paris suburb of Neuilly, was similar to one in January in the same suburb when a senior defence official, Mr René Audran, was killed. No group has claimed responsibility. — Reuter.

THE trial opened in Moscow yesterday of Mr Dan Shapiro, a Jewish dissident and teacher of Hebrew, who faces charges of defaming the Soviet Union. Although the trial has aroused wide interest among human rights and Jewish support groups, his family asked Western diplomats and journalists not to go to the court, Martin Walker writes.

CHINA has decided to freeze local production and strictly control import of the country's latest status symbol — the refrigerator. Two-thirds of its 116 refrigerator factories will stop production and plans for new plants will be put on ice. — Reuter.

UGANDA has freed 44 people detained without charges in the troubled Luwero district north of the capital, Kampala, witnesses said yesterday. The releases, and the freeing of 73 villagers held by the army, follow Army internal allegations of widespread torture. — AP.

THE CHAIRMAN of Japan's External Trade Organisation, a government body promoting imports to cut the country's huge trade deficits, ordered a Jaguar yesterday as his new official car. Only 42,000 foreign cars were sold in Japan last year, compared with 3.9 million Japanese. — Reuter.

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Attack by Finnish troops was stage-managed, UN reveals

Surrender of SLA unit 'was plot to free Shi'ites'

From David Landon in Jerusalem

Mr Nabih Berri, the Lebanese Shi'ite leader, took part in an elaborate charade designed to trick Israel into freeing its Shi'ite prisoners, earlier this month.

Attention focused on Mr Berri's role on publication yesterday of a UN inquiry.

The affair began on June 7 when Finnish troops from the UN Force in Lebanon captured a unit of the Israeli-based South Lebanese Army (SLA) and handed them over to Mr Berri's Amal militia. In retaliation, the SLA kidnapped 23 Finns and held them hostage for several days.

According to an internal UN investigation ordered by the Secretary-General, Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Finnish attack, capture, and handover were all stage-managed. The Finns colluded with the 11 SLA men — all of them Shi'ites — who wanted to desert from the SLA and join Amal.

The attack was artificial. The shooting by both sides was carefully staged to avoid hitting anyone. The SLA men's "surrender" was arranged.

The charade continued even after the SLA men had reached Amal's hands — with Mr Berri apparently now directing affairs. Foreign journalists who were allowed to

film the "prisoners" saw 11 dejected-looking men sitting on the ground while Amal gaolers stood guard over them.

Mr Berri announced that the "prisoners" would be returned if Israel freed the 750-odd Lebanese Shi'ites in detention in ADLT military gaol.

He gave no hint that the SLA men were not prisoners at all, but eager recruits who were going to a great deal of trouble to join the Shi'ite militia.

The UN findings are deeply embarrassing to Israel. They demonstrate the unreliability of the SLA as a fighting force and as a source of accurate information.

Israeli officials set aside their scepticism at the time and espoused the SLA version of the incident, "aducing" evidence "to persuade foreign governments that the 11 SLA men had been abducted by the Finns and unwillingly turned over to Amal."

In the event Mr Berri's play failed to free the Shi'ite detainees. The Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, conveyed to him through indirect channels that Israel was about to release the 750 Shi'ites anyway — and that Mr Berri's public extortion would be counter-productive.

Hostages families vent their anger on Administration

New York: Families and friends of some of the 40 American hostages are expressing growing frustration and anger at what they view as US inaction.

More than half a dozen have spoken out in the past 48 hours and say they want the Reagan Administration to negotiate earnestly and prod Israel to free the 735 Lebanese prisoners, mostly Shi'ites, which the hijackers are demanding in return for release of their captives.

"I'm mad. I don't believe anything is being done. It's outrageous," Mr Terry Swack, the girlfriend of hostage Stewart Darsch, said in Boston.

The family of Mr Arthur Toga issued a statement accusing the Administration of caring more about promoting a tough image than the welfare of the captives in Beirut.

"The American hostages were innocent passengers, not soldiers in combat. It is morally indefensible for the Government to play a game of policy chicken with the lives of the hostages," the statement said.

The families' complaints preceded yesterday's announcement that Mr Reagan was considering measures, including an economic blockade, to put pressure on the hijackers.

The timing prompted some press speculation that the White House announcement was issued partly to appease the families. That theory was denied.

The White House did respond, however, to complaints that it was refusing to meet the families of all 40 hostages at the end of this week.

Mrs Jill Brown of suburban

Boston, whose husband is a hostage said she had asked for the meeting on behalf of the relatives of 22 hostages. — Reuters.

Michael White adds from Washington: Shi'ite Muslims living in the American Mid-West have proposed a joint effort with local Roman Catholics to try to secure the release of the American hostages and the Shi'ite prisoners at the centre of the Beirut hijacking, but the church is wary of intervention.

There are an estimated 20,000 Shi'ites living in the Detroit area. Many are descended from Arabs who emigrated to work on Henry Ford's first assembly lines at Dearborn in the 1920s. Their numbers have greatly increased since the start of the Lebanese civil war. Mr Nabih Berri himself lived in the area some years ago and his estranged wife and family still do.

The Shi'ite initiative, which is focused on Mr Sam Hadous, the President of the Islamic Institute at Dearborn, arose after some Shi'ite groups attended a prayer service at a local Catholic church to celebrate the release of some hostages.

Mr Hadous proposed that their representatives go to Beirut to "use their leverage" with Mr Berri and other Shi'ite leaders to secure the release of the 40 US hostages. The Church would send representatives to Israel to press for the release of the remaining Lebanese (mainly Shi'ite) prisoners — hostages, as many Americans have taken to calling them — still held by Israel.

Ottawa joins blast inquiry in Tokyo

From Robert Whyman in Tokyo

Japan and Canada have begun a joint investigation into the explosion at Tokyo Airport with the arrival yesterday of a Canadian aviation safety officer and a Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer for talks with Japanese officials.

Mr P. W. King, a representative of the Canadian Transport Ministry, and the RCMP officer are believed to have exchanged information with Japanese police on two Sikh terrorists sought in connection with Sunday's explosion in a Tokyo airport terminal building and the crash of the Air India flight.

Japanese police believe that a bomb combined with an integrated circuit controlled timing device was responsible for the blast at Tokyo Airport.

Fragments of what are believed to be integrated circuits, used in sophisticated timing devices, were collected from the bodies of two cargo handlers.

Canadian police are looking for two men — Lal Singh, aged 25, and Ammand Singh, aged 33 — who apparently boarded the Canadian Pacific Airlines Flight 003 for Tokyo.

A man calling himself A. Singh cancelled his reservation on the Canadian Pacific flight, while a man calling himself I. Singh reportedly checked in for the flight and apparently had his luggage loaded at Van-

couver, but failed to board the plane.

One theory is that the luggage containing the bomb was loaded on to the Vancouver-Tokyo flight for transfer to an India flight due to take off two hours later. Japanese investigators suspect that a trunk, of which only the metal frame remains, contained the bomb, and that the trunk may have belonged to the Indian named I. Singh.

Adding to the confusion, police were reported to have found the name A. Singh on the passenger list of a North-

A BRITISH Airways jumbo jet flying the Atlantic with 293 passengers was diverted to Gander airport in Newfoundland yesterday after a bomb warning, but no explosives were found. — Reuters.

west Airlines flight which left Tokyo for Manila three hours and 40 minutes after the bomb went off.

Reuters adds from New Delhi: Undertakers began gathering details yesterday to identify bodies.

The Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, was in contact with world leaders over the possibility that extremists blew up the plane, officials said. They said Mrs Thatcher, Mr Brian Mulroney of Canada, and Mr Garrett Fitzgerald of Ireland had all spoken to Mr Gandhi.



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Hijack 'result of US violence'

MOSCOW: A Soviet Government spokesman said yesterday that the origins of the Beirut hostages crisis lay in US policies in the region.

Mr Vladimir Lomeiko, spokesman for the foreign ministry, described the holding of 50 US passengers and crew from the hijacked TWA airliner as a human tragedy, but added: "Such actions are the result of violence and lack of respect for the rights of others."

US-backed Israeli policy towards the Lebanon and Palestine issues contributed to an atmosphere of violence in the Middle East, he said.

"When the guns of the (battleship) New Jersey were aimed at the peaceful settlements in Lebanon, people did not think about the victims. Such actions often produce reactions."

Mr Lomeiko said he was unaware of any US approach to Moscow to help bring about the release of the hostages.

"The Soviet Union where possible always exerts influence for solution to such problems," he said. — Reuters.

Baghdad cuts its Libyan links

Baghdad: Iraq formally severed diplomatic relations with Libya yesterday following last week's signing of a "strategic alliance" between Libya and Baghdad's Gulf War enemy, Iran.

The official Iraqi news agency INA quoted a foreign ministry official as saying: "Iraq has decided to withdraw its diplomatic mission from Tripoli and has demanded that the diplomatic mission of the Libyan regime leave its territory."

The spokesman said Iraq was withdrawing its recognition of Libya as a member of the Arab League. Baghdad froze relations with Tripoli shortly after the start of the Gulf War in September, 1980, accusing Libya of aiding Iran. While normal relations had not been restored, diplomats said Libya has had a representative in Baghdad for nearly a year.

The move comes a week after Libyan Foreign Minister, Mr Ali Abdel-Salam al-Turaiqi, paid a 24-hour visit to Baghdad as part of a tour of Arab capitals for talks on Libyan proposals for a unified Arab state. — Reuters.



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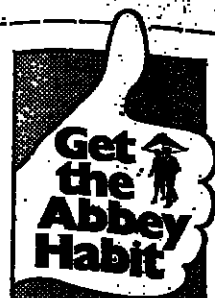
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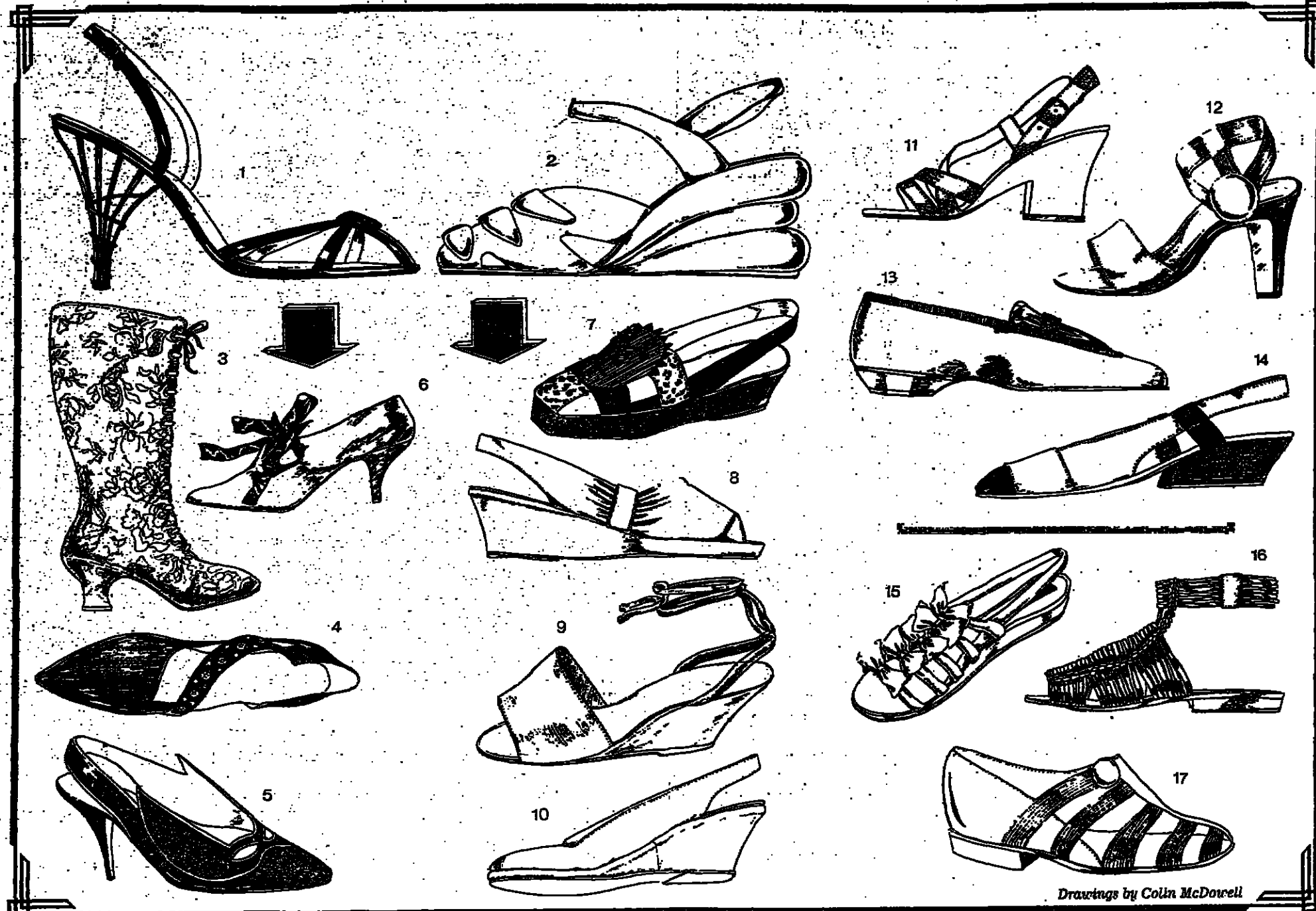


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GUARDIAN WOMEN

In the footsteps of Ferragamo

1. Ferragamo brass "cage" stiletto heel sandal, c1955.
2. Ferragamo shocking pink satin and gold kid padded wedge, c1957.
3. Cream embroidered lace-up boots (also red) sizes 3-7, £28 by Johnnie Walker for Ad Hoc, 300 King's Road, SW10.
4. Black satin very high evening shoe (black only) sizes 3-7, £125 by Laurent at Rayne, 57 Brompton Road, SW3; Harvey Nichols, SW1; Harrods, SW1.
5. Black satin and gold leather trim mask design shoe (black only) sizes 3-8, £105 by Mand Frizon, 31 Old Bond Street, W1.
6. Black satin shoe with black ribbon tie (also red, pink) sizes 4-7, by Emma Hope, available early autumn at all branches of Whistles.
7. Black leather and printed kid wedge sandal with mask applique (also brown) sizes 5-9, £110 by Tokio Kungai at Rayne, 57 Brompton Road, SW3; Harvey Nichols, SW1.
8. Soft white leather sling back wedge sandal (also pale pink, red) sizes 3-8, £56.50 by Charles Jourdan, 39-43 Brompton Road, SW3; Harvey Nichols, SW1.
9. Red patent leather wedge sandal with black ankle tie, sizes 2-7, £64 by Xavier Danaud, 30-31 St Christopher's Place, W1.
10. Red leather sling back wedge sandal (also white) sizes 4-7, £109 by Robert Clergerie at branches of Midas.
11. Bright yellow leather sandal with patent leather wedge heel, sizes 3-8, £74.50 by Charles Jourdan, 39-43 Brompton Road, SW3; Buckinghams, Willslow, Cheshire.
12. Deep blue and black strappy sandal with elasticated ankle strap and leather button fastening (also white, red, green) sizes 2-7, £59 by Xavier Danaud, 30-31 St Christopher's Place, W1.
13. Black velvet flat pump with diamante trim and geometric heel (black only) sizes 3-8, £125 by Russell & Bromley, 24 New Bond Street, W1; and branches available from mid-August.
14. Black and white leather sling back shoe with flat Cuban shaped heel, sizes 3-8, £79.50 by Charles Jourdan, 39-43 Brompton Road, SW3.
15. White leather sandal with pastel pink, green and blue leather bow trim, sizes 3-8, £105 by Mand Frizon, 31 Old Bond Street, W1.
16. Black leather with gold braid flat sandal with ankle strap (also brown, white) sizes 4-7, £119 by Stephanie Kelian at all branches of Midas.
17. Navy canvas and patent leather sandal (also black) sizes 4-7, £99 by Robert Clergerie at branches of Midas.



Drawings by Colin McDowell

Cobblered

Brenda Polan on the man who shaped today's shoes

IN the history of dress, shoes occupy a position as lowly as the feet they protect. This lack of interest stems partly from a scarcity of relics (shoes got thrown away while dresses were packed in muslin and lavender and stowed in the attic) and partly from the fact that, until this century, they were not, as far as the fashionable classes were concerned, on view and were thus of small importance. (As far as the other classes were concerned, they were "on view" but not worth viewing being entirely functional and cloggly unattractive.)

Until skirts started to rise, ladies' slippers and even their dainty boots were more like gloves for the feet than like anything we would call a shoe. Even after an ankle, to be pretty, turned a needed elegant shoe to flatter it, shoe-makers were regarded as artisan craftsmen rather than as artists or designers as their dressmaker colleagues were. The shoe was an accessory, its purpose was to complement the wearer's clothing to adhere to the dress designer's proportions and blend unobtrusively with the dress designer's ideas on colour and mood.

Fashion writers are aware that somewhere, somehow, some time this changed. Today we have shoe designers who are stars, whose names slip

from the tongue as readily as the names of the top rock designers: Manolo Blahnik, Clive Shilton, Andrea Blahnik, Stephane Kelian. The what, how and when of the change are finally made clear by an exhibition at the Palazzo Strozzi in Florence. Entitled simply Salvatore Ferragamo, it tells the story of this "amazing shoemaker's" life and work using photographs and blow-ups of press coverage and shoes. In all 202 shoes of such astonishing beauty, imagination and ingenuity and all dated between 1927 and 1980 (the year of Ferragamo's death), that one is forced to reassess the level of originality of all later shoe designers. For Ferragamo invented the platform sole (because Mussolini channelled all high-grade steel essential for the shank of a high-heeled shoe, into the armaments industry), the French toe (rounded), Roman sandals, the invisible nylon shoe, sculpted heels, like the prow of a battleship, the "glove" arch, shell soles and the stiletto heel. He took the unlikeliest materials and bent them to his purpose: satin, embroidery, crystal, cellophane, raffia, feathers, glass beads, fish skin, felt and all manner of animal hide including (not so shockingly in those more innocent, less conservation-needing times) antelope, leopard, kangaroo and lizard.

Practically every shoe on show at the Strozzi, including some of the more outrageous wedges, is wearable today. Certainly some look dated but so perfect is their proportion, so original, stylish and witty their design that, given clothing of the right proportions (and fashion has never permitted such variety in this matter as it does today), a modern-day wearer would encounter nothing but admiration and envy.

Salvatore Ferragamo's story tempts one either to use that dangerous word, genius, or to ascribe to his own not unheroic belief that reincarnation alone could account for his instinctive skill and seemingly limitless originality. In 1950 he told an interviewer from the Saturday Evening Post: "There never was a shoemaker in my family, either on my father's or my mother's side. I went through the parish records for the last 400 years, just to make sure. A poet, yes; an alchemist, yes; but no shoemaker."

"So I must have been making shoes in some other life, probably on some other planet. Ever since I was old enough to hold a hammer and a skiving knife, things have just been coming back to me."

He made his first shoes when he was nine and his parents, poor farmers in the south Italian village of Bonito, could not afford to buy white shoes for the first communion of two of Salvatore's little sisters. Such was their pride that the little girls were on the point of being withdrawn from the ceremony on the grounds of a spurious illness when Salvatore borrowed two lasts from his friend, the village cobbler, procured some cardboard and white canvas and saved the day.

Like an episode from the Hollywood films Ferragamo was soon to shoe, this spectacular feat, at a stroke, all family opposition to his choice of trade. Shoemaking might be the lowliest of trades, but if you were good at it, at least you ate regularly. After a brief apprenticeship, Salvatore took over the shop, got himself six apprentices, saved his growing profits and then, at the ripe old age of 14, set off to conquer the New World, a place, he was certain, where women were in need of beautiful shoes.

He moved gradually across the continent from east to west, finding his proper place in Hollywood providing shoes for the stars on and off set. Good as these years of fame and fortune were, Salvatore was constantly frustrated both by the low standards of craftsmanship achieved by his fellow workers and by their high wages. So, in 1927, 15 years

after his arrival in New York, he took the fortune and returned to Italy, craftsmanship and low wages.

Establishing himself back home was not easy. He had developed so many new techniques for shoemaking during his years in America that he and the traditional Italian craftsmen were practically speaking different languages. Nor were the traditionalists about to learn his. He solved the problem by training his own staff, taking boys from the streets and giving them a trade and a future.

And he set up his factory, workshops, sales offices and a shop in a Florentine palazzo, the Palazzo Spini Feroni where, last month, the cream of Florentine society celebra-

ted the opening of the exhibition. The exhibition is more than a glittering memorial to yet another brilliantly creative Florentine (albeit adopted). It is part of a large effort on the part of the city authorities to re-establish the city as a centre of fashion creativity, a role which was snatched from it by Milan in the late 1970s.

Whether that can be done remains to be seen; certainly, only the aesthetically unaware would prefer to visit Milan when Florence is an alternative — and the denizens of the fashion world are not that. But one thing is sure: as long as the municipality continues to mount exhibitions as important to the student of dress as this one is, Florence will not lack fashion-conscious visitors.

The sales

Now One, Barkers, High Street Kensington, W8, and all branches. D H Evans, Oxford Street, W1 and Wood Green, Principles, C & A, all branches. Midas, Willslow and Manchester, Cheshire, 103 New Bond Street, W1. Roland Cartier, Oxford Street, Knightsbridge and Brent Cross, Road, W1. Alder's, all branches. Arding & Hobbs, Clapham Junction, Willslow, Willslow, Country Casuals, all branches. British Home Stores, all branches. Elys, Wimbledon, SW19. Jaeger, 205 Regent Street, W1 and branches. Arnots, all branches. Binns, all branches. Frasers, all branches.

STARTING TODAY: Berrie, all branches. Richards, all branches. Liberty, Regent Street, W1. Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1. Aquascutum, 100 Regent Street, W1. Bally, all London branches. Simpsons, Piccadilly, SW1. Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, W1. Jolly of Bath, David Evans of Swansea and Cwmbryn, Howells of Cardiff. Old Brown, all branches. Rares, New Bond Street, W1. Wallis, all branches.

June 28: Chic of Hampstead, 78 and 82 Heath Street, NW. June 29: Daniel Hechter, 105 New Bond Street, W1.

June 30: Lisa Stirling, 21 Bridge Street, Chester and all branches.

July 1: Hobbs, 47 South Molton Street, W1 and all branches. Midas, 72 New Bond Street, W1. Sloane Square, SW1. 17 Brompton Road, SW3. Sasha, all branches. Mothercare, all branches. C & A, Scotland and Belfast. Top Shop, all branches.

July 2: Fenwick, New Bond Street, W1.

July 4: Warehouse, all branches. "Options" at Austin Reed, all branches. C & A, all stores.

July 5: Bally, all provincial branches.

July 8: Pint, 47 New Bond Street, W1. Roland Cartier, all provincial branches. Dolina, Salford, Lilley & Skinner, main London branches. Dorothy Perkins, all branches.

July 9: John Lewis, London, Peterborough and Welling. Bainbridge of Newcastle. Deeds of Reading. George Henry of Liverpool. Knight & Lee of Southsea. Bonds of Norwich. Robert Sayle of Cambridge. Trevis Brothers of Watford. Tyrrell Green of Southampton. Peter Jones, Sloane Square, SW1.

July 10: John's Brothers, Holloway Road, N7. Cole Brothers of Sheffield. Jessops & Sons of Nottingham. John Lewis of Bristol.

July 11: Calvey of Windsor. John Lewis of Edinburgh and Milton Keynes. Mulberry Co, 11 Goo's Court, W1.

July 12: Wardrobe, 17 Chiltern Street, W1. 3 Grosvenor Street, W1. Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1. Feathers, 40 Hans Crescent, SW1. Gianni Versace, 35 Brook Street, W1 and 18 New Bond Street, W1. Uomo Regine, 43 New Bond Street, W1. Regine, 44 New Bond Street, W1. Gianfranco Ferré, 37B Brook Street, W1 and 28 Brook Street, W1.

July 13: Issey Miyake, Sloane Street, SW1.

July 15: Russell & Bromley, 24 New Bond Street, W1 and branches. Paddy Campbell, 31 Christopher Place, W1, 17 Beauchamp Place, SW1.

July 17: Laura Ashley, all branches.

July 20: Browns, 23-27 South Molton Street, W1.

July 26: Hyper Hyper, High Street, Kensington, W8.

July 27: Margaret Howell, 27 Bruton Street, W1.

Gillian Rowe

IT IS high time we were offered more flexibility in our working lives. Conventional employment structures are arranged for the traditional male breadwinner and his employer and take little account of those who have domestic responsibilities or outside interests they wish to pursue.

The majority of women with school-age children go out to work but still have heavy commitments at home. Many men would like to share in caring for their children. All sorts of people would like more free time to pursue unpaid interests, further education or even another area of work. As a result, 45 per cent of the female workforce are employed in part-time jobs. This almost inevitably means work with low pay, low status and little job security.

Job sharing, where a full-time post, its rights and responsibilities, is shared by two people, offers an alternative. It opens up the range of opportunities available to part-time workers and allows them to continue working at a level commensurate with their experience and ability. In this way, they can maintain some career continuity and they also receive employment conditions and fringe benefits pro rata to the full-time job.

A chance of promotion

Sharing a post also offers the chance of promotion: a way out of the part-time rut. Maureen Pascoe and her partner have recently been promoted as a team within the Sheffield Library service. "We had no career prospects as part-timers," she says, "the work got boring and we wanted some more responsibility. When the council announced it was officially in favour of job sharing, we saw our opportunity."

Job sharing is on the increase, particularly in the public sector, where indi-

Job sharing offers a way out of the part-time rut without working longer hours — just one of the advantages of this idea, reports Maggy Meade-King

Two into one will go

vidual employees and local union branches have asked management to initiate a scheme. Local government has led the way but central government management and unions are in favour and see it as a growing phenomenon. In the private sector, most employers have yet to be convinced of the benefits to themselves. However, the experience of public bodies, who experimented with job sharing tentatively at first, would suggest that employers can indeed gain considerable advantages.

"We find that skilled and experienced staff are returning after maternity leave and that they induce their newly recruited partners," says Sue Olley, senior personnel officer at the London Borough of Camden, where they now have 41 shared posts in eight out of 12 departments. A job is covered at least part of the time when one partner is on holiday or ill and it can make for a greater spread of expertise in one post.

Lidia Parbury at the Personnel Management Department at the British Council says that "two heads are often better than one and, because staff are content and committed, they often put in more than a week's work". The British Council have 11 job shared posts now and see it as a positive part of their equal opportunities policy.

The TUC is not so wholeheartedly in favour. They will soon be publishing guidelines for their members, as they recognise there are

personal circumstances where job sharing would be useful and they see the need for union protection for these workers. However, they are traditionally opposed to part-time work in general.

"We would rather people had full-time opportunities," says Anne Gibson, secretary of the TUC Women's Advisory Committee. "part-time work is forced on them by lack of childcare facilities and adequate state care for the elderly. It has become part of a woman's working psychology that she needs to adopt flexible working patterns. Job sharing sounds super on paper but we must be aware of the dangers."

The TUC's misgivings have been reinforced by the Government's Job Splitting Scheme. This illogically offers payments to employers who split a job in order to offer part-time work to unemployed people seeking full-time employment. It excludes the majority of married women, the group most likely to want a shared job.

Most job sharers are women with young children. One such is Eileen Moir, who works at the British Council. She and her original partner, who were the first sharers at the council, both saw it as a way of returning to work after maternity leave. However, Eileen Moir had a subsequent partner taking a half-time sabbatical and, after a current second spell of maternity leave, her next partner will be spending half her time pursuing a freelance writing career.

Job sharing offers exciting opportunities for working flexibly. People can pursue two different jobs in order to gain experience in two areas or to satisfy different sides of their personality. They can use the financial security of a job share while they are setting up their own business, working freelance or taking on further education. This adaptability is increased by the variety of working patterns that can be organised: one partner working mornings only, or two and a half days a week or three days one week and two the next, or one week on and one off, and so on. Worktime can be organised so that extra cover is provided during busy periods of the day or week.

Few sharers among men

As men are traditionally seen as the main breadwinners of the household, few feel able to accept the cut in salary that job sharing inevitably involves. Some men are, however, taking the opportunity to step out of this pattern.

There are also few job sharers amongst the low-paid. They simply can't afford to cut their wages in half. It is also not feasible unless the partners work at least 16 hours a week. Employees who work fewer hours are not covered by employment protection legislation covering unfair dismissal, redundancy payments and maternity leave and will also endanger their National Insurance con-

tributions and state pension. One of the principal objections to the Government's Job Splitting Scheme is that it allows people to be employed for 15 hours a week.

Occupational pension schemes have differing minimum hours and some do not cover part-time workers at all. Some people approaching retirement would like to share their job, perhaps with their eventual replacement, to ease themselves towards retirement. However, there will have to be changes made to both occupational pension schemes and state pension arrangements for this to be financially feasible.

As well as taking care to secure their employment rights, job sharers have to beware of other areas of exploitation. Some employers are unwilling to pay for overlap time for consultation and, instead, many sharers admit to working extra unpaid hours, if only on the telephone, discussing the day's work. All these areas need to be worked out in detail and agreed between all parties before the job share begins.

In the main, both employers and employees involved in job sharing schemes are most satisfied with the results. They have also been encouraged to look at other flexible working schemes like reduced working time, flexible working year arrangements, special leave, sabbaticals and early retirement opportunities. Surely all options worth considering when large numbers of people are unemployed while others feel imprisoned by rigid working structures.

New Ways To Work (309 Upper Street, London N1 2TY. Tel: 01-226 0246) have a computerised register of people seeking job share partners in the London area and can direct inquiries to local groups elsewhere in the country. They are also setting up a national membership organisation which will keep individuals, groups and union branches in touch with developments in the field.

LIBERTY SALE

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Liberty Print Tana Lawn Blouse Lengths (2.5m)	£10.75
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Satin Simple Silk Chiffon (115cm)	£12.95
SCARVES	
Printed Cotton Squares (90x90cm)	£5.00
Silk Georgette Scarves (200x45cm)	£12.95
Liberty Print Varuna Shawls (137x137cm)	£35.00
Cashmere Stoles	£290.00

FURNISHING FABRICS	
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The long reach of oral memory

Edward Blishen on 'the Frazers of the tribal life of children'

The Singing Game, by Iona and Peter Opie (Oxford, £12.50).

"MY SPURS are bright as rickety old shoes," they sing in Cornwall, and the chances are that, at the end of centuries of offhand emendations, this is what these haphazard guardians of oral tradition have made of the line: "My spurs are bright and richly wrought".

In Wales, when the dukes who've come riding, name the maiden they wish to marry, the general body of maidens is astounded: "Who the heck is Fish Fingers?" He was once a coxcomb in now (in Northumberland, at any rate) a corker, and as an example of what they'll do with any material that drifts their way, seven-year-olds took a disreputable rhyme about the characters in Dallas and, say the Opies, "patted it into domesticity".

When they play one of those games in which the line is caught between two making a gate or a bridge, they may be enacting the end of the world.

Many of the games once served serious social purposes, perhaps the choosing of sweethearts or brides; many are certainly the last stage of old ballads, though the Opies, who turn the difficulties of research into a sort of exhilaration, say that examples are hard to find.

"The fate of beauty's to be sold," sing thousands of little girls in thousands of playbooks with never an ethical twinge. They are all — including the child who in 1976, in Salford, wobbled backwards and forwards on her platform-soled shoes and sang an ancient version of "There came a Jew, a Jew from Spain" as fluently as if it was the latest pop song — "conservationists by accident".

This is a beautiful book, from which one emerges with the firmest possible notion of the subject, but, at the same time, with a dazed sense of having been bombarded by wonderful fragments, curious facts and conjectures that are awe-inspiring for their long reach back into oral memory and as perfectly matched, in fact — awe being the last emotion in which these young curators of song and dance indulge themselves.

No one who reads or consults the Opies can look into a primary school playground again without reflecting that in it the world of the ancients is being nonchalantly perpetuated, together with a substantial slice of the Middle Ages.

On the whole the celebrants are girls between seven and nine, though a few of the older boys, though the Opies, who turn the difficulties of research into a sort of exhilaration, say that examples are hard to find.

spotting girls' knickers, boys might appear in large numbers. Readers will find their half-forgotten selves in these pages. I was reminded that when it came to "We all pat the bone," I was always the bone they all patted.

The Opies have assembled 133 games, together with some clapping chants, of which they say only 82 once fulfilled a social function and so can be considered true singing games. And some of these are "only hodge-podges of games," as if we had Shakespeare recalled by folk memory and greatly confused with battered recollections of Burns and Browning. They are arranged according to their character, in twenty sections, and each game has its exhaustive small-print account of texts, recordings and variants at home and abroad.

A prefatory general essay offers, as roots for many of the games, the corollaries that were once danced through entire towns, and led at times to communal near-madness; these becoming the "fytthe carrolles" for the "plaining, ansing and singin'" of which fourteen women of Endergreen were charged in 1574.

Years passed (a phrase often in one's head as one reads) and here were the nineteenth-century middle class and the game of the poor (often a general version quickly rejected). Today, immigrant children

play the games before they can speak English; and one among the myriad of valuable observations is that when they're West Indians, boys and girls play unselfconsciously together.

Alas, Peter Opie having died in 1982, this is the last of the books this marvellous couple produced together and that made them, as someone has well said, "the Frazers of the tribal life of children". All their gifts are evident here: the astonishing thoroughness of inquiry and observation; their refusal to be swept away by attractive surmises; the acuteness of their conjectures when they cannot find the truth; the realism of their pleasure in children; and the constant vividness of their writing.

Few scholars have ever been so readable. They do not take the gleam out of their bright subject-matter, but give it the setting it needs if it is to continue glowing as at random, in an observation on the origins of the insistence, on the part of thousands of small modern ragamuffins, on the delights of washing in milk and dressing in silk.

They are also very funny about their own trade; as when they say of a particularly puzzling question of the earliest version of a song that it is "a prime example of the lack of consideration shown to folklorists by folk."



Men of the future

Tim Radford on Chesterton and Wells

The Bodley Head G. K. Chesterton, selected and with an introduction by P. J. Kavanagh (The Bodley Head, £12.95).

The Man with the Nose and the other collected stories of H. G. Wells (The Athlone Press, £2.95).

BOTH HAD an eerie instinct for the little things that would stick. Chesterton once invented a newspaper leader writer called Hibbs However; in the same book, The Flying Inn, he supposed an England whose High Streets were controlled by Islamic forces. In the Napoleonic era, in the novel of Notting Hill, which he set in 1854, he has an autocratic head of state interfering rather drastically with London's local government; he also has an exiled president of Nicaragua, his country freshly crushed by the Yankee jackboot. In The Man Who Was Thursday, reprinted in full in P. J. Kavanagh's splendid and thoughtful selection, a special branch detective infiltrates a vicious anarchist circle only to find that every other member is also a secret policeman.

Quite often both the ornament and the structure in Chesterton's books have a comic echo of the here and now, even though he began writing 80 years ago. One essay in this collection opens with a defence of that "race of bunted and persecuted outlaws, the bishops," one of whom had had something a little too forthright to say, and had been jumped on for it. Chesterton was quite often jumping on himself ("I believe in getting into hot water," he once said, "I think it keeps you clean.") and quite often by H. G. Wells, another man who could see the future even when he wasn't looking.

The great period of HG as the discernor of shapes to come was around 1904—one of Chesterton's works was a lampoon

of Wellian preaching — but many of J. R. Hammond's little collection of hitherto uncollected trifles, most of them from around 1895, have a wild gleam about them — like the encounter with the "artist" on a train who would recognise as a nouvelle cuisine merchant, slaving about little confections of pork and strawberries with a beer sauce.

The two men spent most of their lives striking attitudes — and sparks — off each other and though they were separated by class, faith, educational background and standards of moral behaviour, they were also rather alike, and touchingly fond of each other.

Chesterton was a reactionary; if he reacted against cant and dishonesty he also reacted against women's suffrage and representative democracy. If he wrote with an incandescent pen he also had a bad habit of setting up some awful cynicism against which he, G.K., could stand as the defender of simple faith, the family, truth, good beef and beer, donkeys and justice, and some of this cynicism he described in Wells. Wells was rather more knowing about his fellow men, but he preferred nonetheless to believe that once science had demonstrated the rationality of choice, in The Quest for the Standard of 1971, full of dull little tales about non-polluting energy sources, falling birth-rates, and a world federal board. The real Wells peeps out a bit with a snippet about the final tragic extinction of the mountain gorilla.

Actually the gorilla is not yet extinct, but that is the bit that rings most true. The little story is a lesson for anyone who is sensitive about the size of his nose. Wells apparently thought these 19 tales not worth collecting. On the whole, he was wrong.

Romantic doubts and devils

by Bernard Bergonzi

Doubles: Studies in Literary History, by Karl Miller (Clarendon Press, £19.50).

KARL MILLER'S immediate subject is quality in literature, but his larger, underlying concern is the persistence of romantic attitudes. His springboard is a study of that Scottish gothic romantic classic, James Hogg's Confessions of a Justified Sinner, published in 1824 and a haunting treatment of the Doppelgänger theme which bowled over Andre Gide when he read it for the first time in 1944.

In Hogg's book one encounters the "double" and "devil" which Miller picks up in many later instances. From Hogg's argument branches rapidly and sometimes confusedly into several areas of nineteenth-century literature: to Hogg's greater Scottish contemporary Scott, to the English romantics Hazlitt and Keats, to the American gothic of Poe, and to the great novelists who dabbled in doubles and devils, Dickens and Dostoevsky.

It takes a while to find any sense of direction in this long and dense book. Miller is wonderfully learned and fertile with instances of the literary treatment of the double, the split personality, the divided consciousness, the self and the anti-self, as he sees them, instances of a central romantic concern, persisting in various forms to our own day.

As he presents them, examples lead to more examples rather than to an overview or sustained general enlightenment. Miller's idiosyncratic prose is both severe and dandy, unrelaxed but inclined to puns and wordplay like "wails will be wails," presumably as instances of language doubling itself in action.

The challenge evidently lay in the effort to make a coherent shape from his wide

reading in several literatures. The conceptual framework is substantial, though, and Miller moves too easily from duality to plurality. He sees the romantic belief in negative capability and mythic-mindedness as an extension of gothic dualism. "The 'poetical' character of the romantic is no split personality, but it is not too much to say that the Jekyll and Hyde had already produced — in its perception of the capacity to take an equal delight in both — an echo and image."

The cautionary negative in the first part of that statement is not given much weight, and I think that Miller's double by stretching in too many directions.

Miller moves on to the end of the nineteenth century, when there were some notable literary doubles and divided selves: Dr Jekyll, Dr Moreau, Dorian Gray. One of the most curious figures in the time was William Sharp, who wrote as Fiona MacLeod.

The last part of Miller's book is largely about American writers, and I think that Miller's double by stretching in too many directions.

His account of these American writers is excellent, and is given perspective by what has gone before; as when he relates the tormented and split confessional poet Robert Lowell to his earlier discussions of the confessions of Hogg's justified sinner and those of Dostoevsky's Stavrogin.

In its range, its learning and its corner-cutting intellectual insouciance, this remarkable book reminds me of a celebrated American work, which Miller refers to with respect, Leslie Fiedler's Love and Death in the American Novel. In more homely terms, it can be compared to Noah's Ark, dangerously overloaded and riding low in the water, but packed with fascinating forms of life and including two of everything.

prizes

THIS year's Somerset Maugham travel awards of £1,500 each have gone to Blake Morrison, Jeremy Reed and Jane Rogers. Dannie Abse, Peter Redgrove and Brian Taylor each receive one of the Cholmondeley Awards for poetry, and the Eric Gregory Awards for poetry have gone to Graham Mort and Adam Mort (£2,000 each), Pippa Little (£3,000), James Harpur and Simon North (£2,000 each) and Julian May (£1,000).

All these awards were made at the annual prize-day of the Society of Authors last week at the Society's travelling scholarships were also presented — to Alan Brownjohn, P. N. Furbank and Martin Seymour-Smith.

The chief winner among the Betty Trask section of awards for works of a romantic or traditional — and not experimental — nature is Susan Kay, whose novel Legacy is to be published by The Bodley Head in September, and who received £12,500 from the romantic Ms Trask's bequest.

Via everywhere

Eric Newby follows Gavin Young

Slow Boats Home, by Gavin Young (Hutchinson, £12.95).

spoke of living with Marsh Arabs in Southern Iraq. The ships he sailed in, a number of which could scarcely be dignified with the name of boat, then verminous in the extreme, carried him first north to Shanghai, then eastwards across the Pacific by way of New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago and the Solomon Islands, to Fiji, Samoa, Tahiti, the Marquesas and to the coast of Peru, made unfriendly to Britons by the Falklands war.

The voyages he writes about in Slow Boats Home took him an entire year from January 1982 until January 1983 when he finally arrived at Plymouth from Hong Kong, having all along, for several reasons, decided to land at Bude.

A perhaps permissible error of navigation in the circumstances, having more or less circumnavigated the globe: an odyssey that must have made a comparatively peaceful change for someone who in the course of a couple of decades as foreign correspondent of the Observer had attended 15 wars, not to

and Home. I almost wrote Dumble and Home. Difficult to deal in such a space with the contents of this long, fascinating, memorable book, as leisurely as the voyages it describes, quarried from 36 notebooks without recourse to a tape recorder, and so ample that with a few extra chapters could build itself a Wendy House on Juan Fernandez.

What one can say about the author after reading it is that he is very sociable (will drink with the worst of them), has a fine ear and eye, the ability to survive on what is mostly filthy food — the Pacific is no route des gastronomes — and never bites the hands of acquaintances who feed and help him which is more than one can say about a lot of travellers.

With Young we experience the sensations of being lost in freezing Shanghai, "blackened out like wartime London," the crowds surging round a bus stop like breakers round a rock. And of running down to Raubal in a bulk carrier with a Filipino crew — the new series of the world, the outlike wartime London, has a fine ear and eye, the ability to survive on what is mostly filthy food — the Pacific is no route des gastronomes — and never bites the hands of acquaintances who feed and help him which is more than one can say about a lot of travellers.

With him we enter the Pacific world in which everyone within sight has been turned into a Baptist, Catholic, Seventh Day Adventist or God knows what — worst of all is the latest all-embracing blight of Mormonism. In Tahiti it is forbidden to drink in-

nocuous Kava or cultivate market vegetables lest the beer and foreign veg. imports be affected.

It is a world in which the clubs are filled with white men with scarlet faces, tailored shorts and long stockings and sensible shoes, like overgrown schoolboys of the Twenties, drinking beer out of cans. A world also with its own linguistic fringes, such as *pisen* (pinyin), in which *day, haus bilong me* is my house, *liklik maunten* is a small mountain, and *kok* is reassuringly cock.

Yet all is not lost, according to Young in spite of drugging emigrants returned from New Zealand and the Mormons. Samoa is still much as Stevenson wrote it, "God's best, his sweetest land, though hopelessly out-smarted and out-numbered by Hindu Indians the Fijians are still the most charming of people. So are the Tongans, whose choirs are still the finest in the Pacific. Rule Britannia and Sussex by the Sea can be heard far and wide on the radio in this enormous sea.

The only ones to escape the civilising process are the tribesmen up in the wild highlands of New Guinea where whole armies wearing hornbill feather headdresses fight it out with spears and bows and arrows, frightening the passing motorist. And on Guadalcanal the Japanese government is still convinced that the soldiers of the Imperial army are hiding up in the forests unaware that the war is over. "Come out!" they shout into their loud-hailers. "It's all over!" No one does. One can hardly blame them.

A burden of light

Martin Dodsworth reviews new poetry

DEREK WALCOTT's latest book is the product of a mid-life reassessment: "Every word I have written took the wrong approach." An exaggeration, of course, but there is a sense in which this very gifted poet seems not to have made the best of his talent till now. *Midsummer* is a book of exceptional achievement, right from the first lines of its first poem:

The jet bores like a silverfish through volumes of downy clouds that will keep no record of where we have passed...

The Silverfish is a surprise and so are the volumes of cloud that so rapidly turn into books; and these surprises go along with a carefully calculated sense of dissolution as the rest of the sentence leaves the jet behind, and ends in a something clammy and unmanageable, "pages in a damp culture that come apart."

This is a style that has learnt from the seeming inconsequence and immersion in the instant of Lowell's Notebook poems — teasing, brilliant, more pointed.

The sixty-odd poems of Walcott are engaged in a furious assault on the poet's daily existence (the bulk of them were written in the space of a single Trinidadian summer). The fury springs in pursuit of something that escapes him, would-be captor. "They never align, nature and your own nature. Too rapid the lightning's shorthand." There is a bitter kind of delight in the consciousness of the gap between the poet and his world.

There is a burden of light upon "lines that must increase

Midsummer, by Derek Walcott (Faber, £3.95).

The Covenant, by Dick Davis (Anvil, £3.95).

Instant Chronicles, by D. J. Enright (Oxford, £4.50).

in radiance" as they seek to embody "the lemon-tint light in Vermeer," "a smoky, churning dark shot with the white-hot pokers of street lamps." Deep in sensation, profligate of image, these poems often suggest early Parisernek:

the housemaid August runs into the port to pull down clouds like a laundryman...

These poems are not, however simple exclamations under the pressure of the moment. Mind is active as the senses here. The poet senses ideas as well as sensations, turns them round and lets them wink out too, all the more brightly for a consciousness of the imperfect world that is their setting.

What they light up is not often simple or flattering; take the poem set in Warwickshire, as an example, the black poet there "to add some colour to the British theatre."

Praise had bled my times white of any anger, and now had induced me into white fellowship, while Caliban howled down the barred streets of an empire that began with Cardmon's raceless deer, and is ending like Tennyson's ship.

The poet who can accuse himself in tones like these has no need to make apologies; his poems make his case for him.

Dick Davis is a more composed poet, whose work exploits regular rhythm and rhyme, sometimes with difficulty, for his subject is the strengths and disciplines that maintain a life far from public affairs, a life where community is with the family, wife and child, with the dead. One excellent poem finds him noting in his wife a mannerism he had thought peculiarly his own. "Who knows which way The gentle dark shot with the white-hot pokers of street lamps." Deep in sensation, profligate of image, these poems often suggest early Parisernek:

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Revising history

by John Torode

History of the Communist Party of Great Britain 1927-1941, by Noreen Branson (Lawrence and Wishart, £6.95; £15 cloth).

THIS IS, in effect, the third volume in the history of the CPGB. (The first two were written by James Klugman, the one nineteenth-thirties Apostle who never concealed himself in an ideological closet.)

"In effect," for two reasons. The Eurocommunists who control the CP wouldn't dream of commissioning anything as authoritative as an official history. And then the struggle against the Stalinist Morning Star group is moving so fast that an authorised version is less than a year away, something a little too forthright to say, and had been jumped on for it.

Ms Branson's contorted work should be read as a blow against the Tankies rather than as serious contribution to working-class history. At the start, the "collaborationist" CPGB is instructed by the Comintern to attack the "social fascists" of the Labour Party and set up breakaway trade unions.

It was a disaster which went against all British experience and practice. Fortunately, international events dictated a switch to united

fronts, popular fronts and what Branson denounces as the politics of counter-revolution.

Domestically, the CPGB did rather well out of the 1930s — until the purges, the Nazi-Soviet pact and the Russian invasions of Poland and Finland. Naturally the CPGB supported Britain's war against Hitler. Then, on Soviet orders (and after a fight with the communists) the demotion of "Eurocommunism" general secretary Harry Pollitt and Daily Worker editor John Campbell the party suddenly redefined Britain's position.

Only Hitler's attack on Russia allowed British comrades to pick up the pieces, rehabilitate Pollitt and rebuild links with the broad left.

Ms Branson's book has two conflicting purposes. She has to prove that today's revisionist CP leaders are heirs to a pro-Soviet orthodoxy.

At the same time she has to demonstrate that "class against class" policies (imposed from Moscow) are a disaster and should be opposed. Thus, Branson argues, the (fundamentally correct) central committee followed Stalin's cynical orders in 1939 because of the horror of the purges was "not known" to them.

Yet as she confirms the key central committee Stalinists were Palme Dutt, Bill Rust and David Springhall. What she does not say is that, as controllers of covert liaison between Moscow and the CPGB, they were the guilty men precisely because they did know the truth. The history of the CPGB between 1927 and 1941 has still to be written.

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GUARDIAN BOOKS

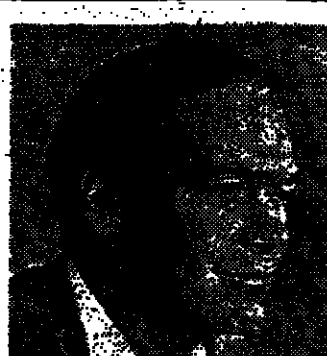
STILL LIFE is the excellent sequel to a very good novel which A. S. Byatt published in 1979, entitled *The Virgin in the Garden*, where the focal point was the Coronation in 1953, and the scene moved from a public school to an Elizabethan country house and thence to the coast of North Yorkshire.

Still Life spans the period from 1954 to 1959, and is set in London and Cambridgeshire, and again North Yorkshire. The key characters from the first novel are shown in a new light, and as they say "developing". Alexander Wedderburn, the playwright, for instance, who was formerly employed in the writing of what sounded like a piece of half-baked Christypher Fry is now living in London and writing a play about Van Gogh.

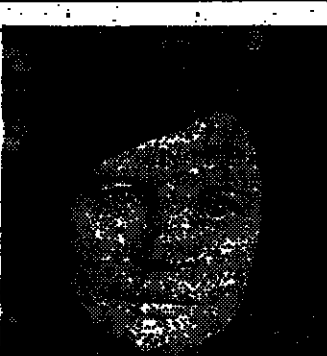
Nor is this just a matter of detail or social fashion. Just as Wedderburn's reaching after the notion of the poetic masque was used, ironically, to pinpoint something peculiar to those long ago days when newspaper leader writers sought to convince us that we were on the edge of a new Elizabethan age, so his obsession with the life and work of Van Gogh provides the new novel with one of its crucial metaphors.

And I should add that Byatt is most assuredly not in the send-up business. Rather, she deploys an unusual sensitivity to the cultural life of England at a particular time, and succeeds in relating this to larger patterns of myth and history.

What I like and admire immediately about the text is the way she can make little and local events (a seduction in a hotel in Scarborough, say) seem somehow as worthy of our sympathy as anything in the great romances of the past. This sounds silly, but it isn't. Patrick Kavanagh has a sonnet in which he insists that while "gods make their own importance," Homer made the Iliad from "a local



Jonathan Raban



A. S. Byatt



Emma Tennant

The Iliad from a local row

Robert Nye reviews the week's new fiction

row. This I take to be Byatt's stance, and it is an interesting one, and it makes for a novel which among other things demonstrates and enacts a profound understanding of the nature and usefulness of fiction.

As to placing the whole planned tetralogy, a reviewer had better wait until the thing is completed. Meanwhile it can be said that Still Life affords many pleasures in its own right, and that on the evidence of this book and its predecessor she is a most intelligent writer, a novelist of ideas on the George Eliot scale, though her narrative procedures are thoroughly modern. All in all, a most heartening and humane display of what a good novelist can do with recent history without falling into the pit of realism.

Emma Tennant's *Black Marina* strikes me as a disappointment after her last few books, where she seemed to be in pursuit of things as ambitious as Byatt undoubtedly is. This one takes a close look at a Caribbean island called St James, a few miles from Grenada, and the time is the

Still Life, by A. S. Byatt (Chabon/Hogarth, £9.95). **Black Marina**, by Emma Tennant (Faber, £9.95). **Foreign Land**, by Jonathan Raban (Collins Harvill, £9.95). **Harvesting Peacocks**, by Mary Wesley (Macmillan, £8.95). **Safe Houses**, by Lynne Alexander (Michael Joseph, £8.95).

present, so we have the American landings to contend with. Most of the story is told by a pathetic little swarthy fellow called Holly Baker, who has been working as the storekeeper on the island for 16 years, and it is through her eyes that we learn of Sanjay, the nephew of the guy who once owned the island.

As a matter of fact, we never meet him directly, which is a clever device, and Tennant employs it successfully, but at the same time I think this is a fatal cop out.

All the way through I wanted to know what Sanjay thought and felt about what was left of "his" island, and his life. Instead, I got really fed up with this. I must admit, we have Holly babbling on and on in what is more or less advertising copywriter's prose about the contents of the alcoholic drinks used by these hores to fill each day and a bit more guilt.

One of Holly's favourite words is "scrumpious," and I fear that just about the limits of her sensibility. The book could have been a recipe for more than rum punch: more the pity, given Tennant's talent.

Jonathan Raban has made a name for himself with *Foreign Land*, so the joke in the title of his first novel *Foreign Land* is that the place visited is England. George Grey, in his sixties, returns to

the old country after forty years which he has enjoyed in Africa. In short, he doesn't like it here. His daughter is a feminist, and the London she lives in is no place for a gentleman. Still, the Cornish seaside resort to which he retreats, St Cadiz, turns out to be a good deal worse, with no smoking in the yacht club, and much talk of operations among the gin, Vaseline, and general gloom.

Presumably because he feels at sea on land, Grey turns out to be a bit of a ketch, safely exiled again from England's present misery. He hallucinates away about his father, and the long-dead past, and what an office have been a green and pleasant land. Raban's prose hoists all sails once he gets George to the far end of the book, but it is a long way to go.

Mary Wesley's *Harvesting Peacocks* is another little labour of love by this lady who only started publishing novels in her seventies. Like its two predecessors, it is full of warmth and wit, full of wise tests about the trouble girls have with their grandfathers and their horseys sisters not to speak of their sons and lovers. Wesley, by the way, takes a less jaundiced view than Raban does of seaside towns in Cornwall, but then she takes a less jaundiced view of cooking and eating love as well, and in fact the whole book breathes with a happiness which would be rare in a writer at any age or stage.

The view from the big hoose

by Emma Tennant

Among You Taking Notes: The Wartime Diary of Naomi Mitchison, edited by Dorothy Sheridan (Gollancz, £12.95).

MASS Observation, a social research organisation set up in 1937 in an attempt to make a "science of ourselves" by documenting the everyday lives of the British people, was the brainchild of amongst others, Humphrey Jennings; half a century on, how real do the documents seem now? The world they contain: is the slightly "Martian" connotation, of seeing a society through new, impassive eyes more or less pronounced with the passage of time?

The answer, probably, as seen in the diaries kept by the Scottish poet and novelist Naomi Mitchison for Mass Observation, is that the world she portrays seems extremely far away and unlikely, yet, as in a good novel, the people, their feelings and reactions are instantly recognisable and as fresh and immediate today as they were then.

For paradoxically, in the quest for reality, setting down the minutiae of the fishing village in Kintyre where she spent the years of the war, Naomi Mitchison has written a diary that is more of long, sporadic novel; her Observation is more acute than general.

Carradale, the "Big Hoose" bought by the Mitchisons in 1938, was a brother was J. B. Haldane, managed to present all the contradictions inherent in left-wing views mixed with stag-hunting, Victorian battlefields and the annual binges at Hogmanay where the Laird of Miskle takes over and the poor folk can dance about in baronial halls, overturning ashtrays. Naomi Mitchison was aware of the quality of persuading the weatherbeaten fisherfolk that an agricultural soviet lay around the corner and would bring wealth and happiness. She depicted, too, more innocents — and these do fear far off — when in a Mitford Sisters kind of way the workers and the nobility stand singing in the hall and it's the son of the nobility who warbles that he'll take the low road and I'll take the low road and I'll get to Moscow before you.

She shows the bafflement, sometimes, of the privileged woman who is coming to terms suddenly with the fact that she won't have "pre-war maids" to do everything for her and that she must cook, care and cater like the rest of them. Yet, for all the easy smiles that some of these attitudes provoke, she worked hard on the land, helped large quantities of people and her husband away in the south, bore a fifth child, which died at birth, all with stoicism and good humor. As a historian she was well educated, but she is never condescending. And what she believed in — a good education for all, a society without class divisions, tolerance and peace — these things only now so remote, since the onset of the Iron Age, when all such simple beliefs were shattered.

Angry young women

by Beryl Bainbridge

Truth, dare and promise. Girls growing up in the Fifties, edited by Liz Heron. (Virago, £4.95p).

THIS IS A marvellous selection of autobiographical recollections of childhood in the Fifties — that post-imperialistic era of Supermac and the Welfare State — written by 12 women who are now committed feminists. What a world it used to be, and how excellent the educational system obviously was, for though the contributors come from different backgrounds, ranging from comfortable to bog-poor, what they have in common is an ability to write. These are not whimsical, self-indulgent monologues of sunlit days gone by when horse drawn carts brought the milk to the door and we all played hop-scotch in the street, but haunting and vivid essays of the way things were. There's not a bummer among them, from the immediacy of Alison Fell's account of growing up in Lanarkshire to Denise Riley's poetic and painful record of childhood in Gloucester.

It goes without saying that it was precisely because of the way girls were brought up then, restricted, cramped by roll-ons as much as by rules, encouraged to be lady-like, to primp with things (if not always to think of England) which determined the sense of outrage that resulted in the women's movement. Liz Heron, in her introduction, writes: "Our lives are different from those of our mothers, and this applies to all of us of our generation. For the changes of the last 30-odd years have made a greater and deeper impression on women than on men." It will be interesting to see, 30 years hence, whether our daughters will be writing of the advantages of liberation and equality, or complaining that they were encouraged to have expectations. Either way, I doubt that they will have been taught to express themselves half so well.

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Some simplicities

by Christopher Wordsworth

The Cider House Rules, by John Irving (Cape, £8.95). **Mr Wakefield's Crusade**, by Bernice Rubens (Hamish Hamilton, £8.95).

DR WILBUR LARCH, who runs St Cloud's Orphanage, Maine, is as old as the hills when *The Cider House Rules* opens, a saint to the staff, godfather to the orphans whose histories he embellishes and invents. A small weakness for ether-sniffing has not impaired his skill as obstetrician and abortionist. He delivers women well as he does as a going-away present his beery father treated him to a prostitute his first and last sex, and he discovered by the glow of the girl's cigar that the woman's under-age daughter was present. Later he refused the same girl an abortion and, when he learned what became of her, never refused another.

When Larch dies in the fullness of 552pp, having foxed the board of trustees and ensured the succession for his beloved (and unqualified) orphan Homer, weaned on Dickens and Gray's Anatomy, the chain of causality gives a savage jerk to the sentimentality that Irving has been systematically diffusing.

Compassion is the theme, dangerous stuff when stripped. At the conference of the impressive novel — there are many tributary narratives, some seeping away in the sand — sentiment and good intentions, as portrayed in the briefly painless love-triangle

of Homer and a rich and collected pair of apple farmers, the husband paralysed, meet, the bitter waters of compassion and decision.

You may need a compass in them their moral woods, and mental surgical gloves to cope with all those sutures and foetuses. And one can have too much wide-eyed simplicity of the kind that Irving, like Thornton Wilder, specialises in — Homer, who has never seen a movie, is virgin soil upturned. Grotesque, violent, moving, it is a book that broods and asks.

Bernice Rubens can lapse into mere garishness when not at her best, which she is manifestly not in *Mr Wakefield's Crusade*. And yet? This allegory of fantasy and self-confrontation seems smaller than life where Irving's is larger, chief because it's from working-class-to-a-palate-for-claret narrator, constantly harping on his own uselessness and the treachery of women (a lesbian ex-wife) is so pinched and one-dimensional.

Nor does it help that the man was between Victorian plumminess and expressions like "silly old sod," while the foundations are pure cardboard when a man in the post office queue keels over with a fatal coronary and wakes up in a pocket of the deceased's unopened letter on impulse that turns to obsession, embarks on a wild goose chase to solve a great mystery, the goose in the end of course proving to be Wakefield himself.

Submerged in improbability as it sounds, the ASDIC can still pick it up, the faint but riveting ping of a gifted and intriguing storyteller.

Pieces of Hardy

by John Arlott

The Life and Work of Thomas Hardy, by Thomas Hardy, edited by Michael Millgate (Macmillan, £30). **The Collected Letters of Thomas Hardy**, Volume Five, 1914-1918, edited by Richard Little, Hardy and Michael Millgate (Oxford, £22.50).

THESE latest products of the Hardy industry run to 2117 pages, all basically written by Hardy, though annotated by his editors.

The *Life and Work* is identified on the title page as "An edition on new principles of the materials previously drawn upon for *The Early Life of Thomas Hardy 1840-1891* and *The Later Years of Thomas Hardy 1892-1928* published over the name of Florence Emily Hardy." It had long been the most open of inaccurate literary secrets that the two volumes of "biography" credited to his second wife, were written by Hardy to contain precisely as much about his life and career as he wished to be published.

Mr. Millgate, however, demonstrates that those two earlier books — both published posthumously — were not exactly what Hardy had intended. He points out "By recovering... with as much fidelity as the surviving evidence will allow... the working that stood at the time of Hardy's death, it becomes possible to see just what Hardy himself wrote, what his widow subsequently altered, and to confront the *Life and Work* as an entirely Hardy text." Hardy's letters, less attractively from the pages of this new edition than from *Early Life* and *Later Years*... no useful purpose is now served by following Florence Hardy and Sir James Barrie in their well-

meaning but ultimately misguided attempts to edit his text in the interests of presenting him as other than he was.

This is a wise, understanding and skilful reconstruction — and often, detective work — of the man and his work. Hardy, for instance, made alterations to the top copy of Florence's typescripts in a "disguised hand" or in pencil for her to ink over. There was too, that bonfire in the garden of Max Gate "destroying papers of the last 30 or 40 years, and they raise ghosts." This, therefore, is probably the nearest any of us will read to the truth.

The new volume of *Collected Letters* is, like its predecessors, immaculately and informatively edited. It runs effectively from Hardy's second marriage until after the 1914 War, which squeezed both agony and poetry out of him. Now, in his seventies, he was more relaxed, less preoccupied with business, but he remained a direct correspondent; others received courtesy, still though, only Hardy's *Henrietta* was indulged with affection.

Only authentic — signed — letters are included. To protect himself from autograph hunters, Hardy had many of his letters typed in the third person and signed by Florence, or their occasional secretary, May O'Rourke. Letters to Galsworthy, Amy Lowell, Siegfried Sassoon, Frederic Harrison, Edmund Gosse and the adhesive Sydney Cocke are interesting.

How much of all Hardy's correspondence might have been available can, of course never be known; by this time most of his letters were surely being saved; how much remains private can hardly be guessed; and, of course, again, that bonfire...

Matthew Coady's

DOCK BRIEFS

RELIABLE old ingredients of Victorian fiction are well stirred then laced with pink champagne in Antonia Fraser's *Oxford Blood* (Weidenfeld, £8.95). Babes are switched, a title and a fortune are at stake and an innocent young viscount is dogged by murder in a plot as thick as turtle soup. On hand is Jimmie Shore, the TV investigator, (born between making a documentary on glided youth and unravelling the consequences of a dying midwife's confession. More catalyst than sleuthette, she traverses the worlds of gossip, columnists, Out of the blue (Deathhead Revisited?) both of which are nicely shadowed by doom. A delectable entertainment.

The Hunt for Red October, by Tom Clancy (Collins, £9.95). Episodic hi-tech thriller. Sophisticated Soviet saboteur by officers defecting to US with Russian Navy in pursuit. Plot slugs it out with heavily researched expertise and losses.

Someday the Rabbi Will by Harry Kemelman (Hutchinson, £8.95). Welcome return of Talmudist amateur detective David Small. Intrigues involve hit and run case, synagogue power, and a political ambition. Amusingly instructive for Gentiles.

Deadly Nature, by Hardiman Scott (Bodley Head, £8.95). Woman peace campaigner seduced by gaye double-dealing terrorist into helping create British Nuclear crisis on behalf of you know who. Moderately suspenseful. Serves as don't-talk-to-strangers warning for CND girls.

Our Fathers' Lies, by Andrew Taylor (Gollancz, £8.95). Apparent suicide "has mysterious links" with arsenic and gravel. Thirties murder trial and shady court-martial in world war one. Zestfully written with high tension rating.

Murder Makes Tracks, by Gillian Lindsay (Macmillan, £7.95). Lycoon, plain on alpine slopes. Distracted staff and comprehensive school rowdies on hot caught in suspicion's web. Kids steal the show. Strives too hard for ingenuity.

Children of Tender Years, by Ted A. Lewis (Oneworld, £8.95). Auschwitz victim, now in SIS, confronts madman's flytrap dilemma as he probes rumours of neo-Nazi revival. Either end of genre gear changing but it's smoothly done and the grip holds.

Flowers from Berlin, by Noel Ryad (W. H. Allen, £9.95). Melodramatic stuff. Fiendish German agent out to prevent US from entering Hitler's war. Fading English rose heroine and FBI man save the day, but only just. Whew!

Wedding Treasure, by David Williams (Macmillan, £7.95). Caddish guest slams with golf ball on nuptial eve. Tedious financial complications plus bedroom secrets create puzzle for laid-back banker. Murderous Mark Treasure. Well-mannered trad. mystery.

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The Bodley Head

The nails keep popping out of the plank

Income policy remains a dirty and divisive phrase in Labour Party circles. So, too, is any talk of a social contract. Above all, a pay norm is the great unmentionable. And yet a Labour movement serious about seeking power must have some convincing substitute for Mrs Thatcher's rag-tag version of wage planning — monetarism, control of the public sector borrowing requirement, an informal public sector norm, a deal of exhortation and unemployment running at above 13 per cent. Yesterday the Labour Party and the TUC took a first faltering step towards defining a better way. It would, according to a statement to go to both conferences this autumn, involve active union participation in an annual economic assessment. Such an exercise would embrace interest and exchange rate policies, investment planning and, above all, target levels for employment. And that, as night follows day, must involve a national view about the overall level of wage increases.

Not to put too fine a point on it — a pay norm. Yet the comfortable emphasis of the document is upon free collective bargaining and greater union say in company level investment plans.

Shadow Chancellor, Roy Hattersley takes a more robustly realistic view of these things. (See his Guardian interview of June 18.) Of course he is not talking about an income policy! Rather a "rewards policy" — to adopt the euphemistic phrase employed by Mr Neil Kinnock. Of course Mr Hattersley professes seductive new powers and responsibilities for the unions. In addition, he offers a statutory minimum wage and he pledges a substantial reduction in unemployment. Diplomatically he rules out a legally enforced income policy. There will be no sanctions against companies or unions who ignore Labour guidelines. Neither will the TUC be levered back into the business of wage setting. Yet Labour's deputy leader insists in terms that there has to be a national wage norm and that the extent that it is breached will be the extent

to which Chancellor Hattersley's expansionist and job creating policies fall short.

Mr Hattersley is right to lay things on the line as he has done — although, with hindsight, he could prudently have held peace until the rhetoric of the union conference season was safely out of the way. He is right for two reasons. The more fundamental is that a Labour government, dedicated to economic expansion and to using the laws of logic rather than the laws of Parliament to win support for its economic policies, will have one heck of a job of persuasion on its hands. Better to start now rather than after the election. More cynically, Labour's first task is to win that election. Trade union power is not what it was and neither is public perception of that power. Even so, a Labour leadership offering the electorate the ambiguous prospect of unprecedented union involvement in the economic affairs of state should surely be able to tell the punters that, in return, the barons of Congress House will be prepared to rein themselves in a little.

In context therefore the underpinning remarks of Mr Ron Todd, general secretary elect of the Transport and General Workers Union, make depressing reading. Mr Todd told his biennial conference that his union "might" just accept that socialism is rooted in a planned economy and that plans might need to embrace all types of incomes. Yet, he continued, "we stand firmly by the view that planning of working people's incomes can only be by the active consent of the people involved. That is what free collective bargaining means."

With which Britain's largest union registered its opposition to Hattersley's norms, guidelines and cash limits. Delegates went on to brush aside the idea of a statutory minimum wage to protect the lowest paid. Yet Mr Hattersley's conversion to a legal floor on earnings was intended as a wage norm *quid pro quo* for unions like NUPE who have long been seeking state support for the weakest and the most vulnerable of their members. The joint economic statement remains on the table and yesterday the TGWU specifically endorsed Labour's alternative strategy which must involve detailed bargaining with Mr Hattersley. With the election two years away, Labour still has the time to evolve a common position on wages. But has Mr Todd — or his many friends — the inclination? On current form it seems somewhat sadly unlikely.

Should he get his job back?

To his opponents, the suspended Bradford head teacher, Mr Ray Honeyford, is a racist provocateur who should be sacked. To his supporters he is a man who tells the truth and who faces martyrdom for his defence of free speech. In a situation such as this, where so much hinges on the character of an individual, polarisation is unavoidable and issues get personalised and simplified. Such problems have bedevilled the Honeyford affair for months. Nor has the air been cleared by this week's decisions by the Drummond Middle School governors that Mr Honeyford was not guilty of the accusations of racism made against him and that he should now be reinstated. That governors' meeting was only attended by 11 of the 18 people eligible to be there, and those who did attend were, by all accounts, narrowly split. A final decision now rests with Bradford's assistant director of education, who must weigh the governors' verdict along with the earlier no-confidence decision in the local council's schools sub-committee. He must also take into account the strong local political opposition to Mr Honeyford from Labour and the Alliance and the hostility of representatives of Bradford's Asian community. Even if the assistant director decides not to reinstate Mr Honeyford, there will then be the question of an appeal. So the Honeyford affair still has plenty of mileage in it.

This calls for cool heads on all sides. It also means that basic principles must be reiterated. The first of these is that Bradford is fully within its rights, both as a matter of law and also as a matter of principle, to pursue multi-racial education policies which have been worked out in detail over a long period of time. It is also entitled to expect that the head teachers whom it employs will implement these policies. If head teachers (or anyone else, come to that) fail in that task, then it is perfectly proper for the local authority to take action against them, and ultimately to give them their cards. Not only that. A city with a large ethnic minority population, such as Bradford, must also have a duty to ensure that parents and local communities have confidence in the head teachers as well. This must never mean that absolutely any-

one who is accused of racism is not automatically to be deemed guilty, whatever the hue and cry. That would allow a prejudiced or sectarian community to use quite improper means to get rid of people who are personally and professionally qualified for their jobs.

Where, then, does Mr Honeyford stand? To judge by some of the wilder defences of his conduct, he is a heretic, a good man, a decent chap. These are some of the garlands that Fleet Street has decked around his neck. Let such grompings then read Mr Honeyford's writings, notably the articles which he has written for the *Salisbury Review*. These articles discuss some important issues about education in a multi-racial society, issues which ought to be properly debated (as they are in the recent *Swann Report*, for example). But Mr Honeyford's writing is crude (and has become increasingly so), it is racially insensitive (to put it mildly), with its references to "the hysterical political temperament of the Indian subcontinent". It is full of illogical leaps and intellectually dubious side swipes and analogies. Above all, it is riddled with stereotypes which are at least as misleading as any which have been pinned on Mr Honeyford by his cruder critics. In the piece which we reprinted on our Agenda page last Friday, for instance, Mr Honeyford produced a grotesque parody of multi-cultural education and its supporters which he then elided into the ridiculous charge that these were the same people who "often welcome race riots as signs of healthy revolt". Shoddy stuff. And odd stuff to be taken up by Mr Roger Scruton, a man who preens himself for his intellectual rigour. In truth, too, not the kind of stuff that should be coming from a man with his responsibilities. Mr Honeyford may, in the end, keep a job. But whether it should be his present job is far more questionable.

The job that makes waves

The appointment of Mr Peter Levene as £25,000 a year head of the Government's defence procurement is looking, at the very least, accident prone. When the announcement was first promulgated six months ago it proved controversial on several counts. First, it was made without going through

the normal Civil Service procedures of open competition and at a salary more than twice that of a comparable civil servant. Not something calculated to improve sagging Civil Service morale at a time when the Government is squeezing public sector salaries.

Mr Levene, moreover, was appointed for a term of five years — well beyond the span of the present administration — for a job which is so political that it would be highly unlikely to survive a change of government. Initially the Government said that Mr Levene was appointed as a civil servant. When it was pointed out that he had not satisfied the rules monitored by some very unhappy Civil Service Commissioners it was stated that he had been seconded. The Government was thereupon told that this, too, was illegal because people on secondment needed a certificate of qualification from the CSC because of obvious conflicts of interest which could arise in their dealings with companies with which they formerly had close links. To get around this Mr Levene was not seconded, but "appointed" for a five year contract with provision that he does not deal with companies with which he has had strong links.

Mrs Thatcher justified the appointment on the grounds that the Government is spending £8 billion a year on the defence equipment programme and it was important to get maximum value for money. The overriding requirement, she said, was for a more commercial approach which brings with it the need to inject "best business practices" into the work of the procurement executive.

The first glimpse of these best business practices is not altogether encouraging. It appears that a subsidiary of Mr Levene's firm called United Scientific Instruments has become well known in the trade for paying above the odds for so-called "contaminated" to mid-level managers introducing overseas contracts. In 1983 this subsidiary paid out almost £2.7 million in commissions on sales of £30.2 million or over 90 per cent compared to a more normal 2 to 5 per cent. Well, if not the best business practice, certainly the highest.

The Government continues to justify this appointment on the grounds that someone who knows all the wheezes from the other side is best placed to make reforms once he joins the gamekeepers. But Mr Levene will need to produce some very early results to justify one of the most unhappy appointments of recent years.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Local accountability that the chains of centralism release

Sir,—We read Hugo Young's commentary of June 25 with interest because in common with many other writers on the subject, he appears to us to overlook one crucial aspect of the rates issue and in the process misses one of its great ironies.

The point is this: the rating system has been, and in all cases except where authorities have been rate-capped remains, part of the strategy for the control of local spending. Local rate bases have long been inadequate for the loads which are put upon them so that ratepayers are obliged to shoulder an undue burden in the hope that they will prompt local authorities to restrain their spending.

Back in 1976, Layfield identified accountability in terms of those who determine expenditure, then financing it; but what we have seen — as foreshadowed in the Treasury evidence to Layfield — is the attempt to use local accountability to "deliver" the national public expenditure plans for local spending.

To this end, over the period since Layfield there have been the following pressures put upon the rating system to prompt local preferences in this way:

After the Treasury's fears in its evidence to Layfield that ratepayer pressure was being "bought off" by grant increases, a steady reduction in grant levels from a proportion of about 65.5 per cent in 1978 to about 43.7 per cent in 1985-86, leaving ratepayers to find the difference;

The block grant system which specifies, in effect, a rate increase to match any given level of an authority's spending;

"Penalties" — ie potentially very large block grant reductions — calculated in terms of increases in rate burdens for the authorities affected — once authorities exceed their "targets" based on the public expenditure plans.

Undeniably, therefore, there has in Layfield's terms been an increase in local accountability; those who determine local expenditure decisions (ratepayers) are now financing a greater propor-

tion of that expenditure. At the same time central control over the level of spending local authorities undertake has increased.

Local accountability and central control are therefore not the opposites which Hugo Young implies, but rather the former has in effect become the official euphemism for the latter.

That this strategy has not worked is clear. Local preferences have not forced local spending into line with the public expenditure totals, and the Government has therefore seen fit to introduce rate-capping. At the same time, and this is the real irony, the Government has had its fingers burned by the attempt to introduce "local accountability" and "protecting local ratepayers" have become the watchwords for a search for new means of funding local spending.

As Hugo Young points out, the Treasury is not known to be enthusiastic about this search. But we would argue that this is because there is some evidence that local rate bases, combined with selective rate-capping, might in fact now deliver the control of local spending which it has long sought.

The search for another source of funding for local spending at once jeopardises the control which the Treasury is able to exert, and obliges it to ensure that the new local tax base — however it is to be constituted — is at least as adequate as its predecessor supporting local spending. — Yours faithfully, Peter Williams, 62 St Dunstan's Road, London W6.

Sir,—There is an awful fascination in the spectacle of a Government attempting to introduce a system of local taxation infinitely more regressive than the rating system as the electoral consequences of that change begin to impinge even on the minds of the present Cabinet. On one point, however, Hugo Young's Commentary is wrong: the fall-back option of centralising education would not reduce rate-capping since it would be accompanied by abolition of

all or most of the rate support grant.—Yours faithfully, Peter Greig, 29 Park Avenue, London N22.

Sir,—You report (June 21) the decision of the GLC and three of the Met counties to join the Association of County Councils (ACC). But no one has yet produced any sensible reasons why they should do so.

Is it the latest convulsion in their death throes? Have they all a mad urge to chuck their money around before the Government can get its hands on it? We no doubt the ACC will be grateful for another £178,000 this year, but what are the ratepayers in the GLC, West Yorkshire, Merseyside and Tyne and Wear getting for it?

I could understand it if it gave the Labour Party control of the ACC by devious but legal means. But it doesn't, and it can't. We in the ACC Alliance Group will have the balance of power regardless of these manoeuvres.

Three of the councils have given no reasons why they wish to join, 12 years after

they could first have done so and nine months before their likely disappearance. Merseyside says the ACC can provide it with "an additional forum and medium for promoting its views on the issues of the day" (gee, thanks) and that it will "strengthen any representations being made by the association upon these and other matters".

Really? To whom? To Messrs Thatcher, Joseph, Jenkin, and Co? The fact is that the Tories have lost control of the ACC through the de facto vote of the shire counties electors. Thus the ACC will, in its representations to Government and elsewhere, reflect a majority of the people in those areas. The pathetic meddling by Ken Livingstone and his cronies can only weaken the ACC and its efforts to maintain and improve services, defend and open up the local democratic process, in the face of a hostile Government. Let the meddlers take their little games elsewhere. — Yours faithfully, Tough Greaves, 2 Harton Street, Colne, Lancashire.

Kicking sand in the faces of the 'Costa del Dole' victims

Sir,—In the past week the extreme effects of the new "board-and-lodge" rule have been publicised. But though the suicides have personally concerned the Tin Man, Tony Newton, they must not be allowed to obscure the more general level of suffering imposed on a large population of young people.

As a councillor for the seat of area in Brighton, I have witnessed the various effects of the ruling. Indeed one of my constituents attempted suicide after her son's benefit was cut. Despite minor reforms this regulation remains one of the most iniquitous and vicious of my constituents' attempts to sue the Government. It reinforces the image of young claimants as scroungers hollering on the "Costa del Dole". It supposedly puts pressure on the young to return to their families, and it effectively disenfranchises a significant number of 18 to 25-year-olds.

It is easy to assume from the sums the DSS pays landlords that the rooms provided are palatial. In my area this is just not so. The bed-and-breakfast "hotels" are usually subdivided Regency houses. The rooms are small and dirty. The hotels are environmental health and fire officers' nightmares. As for reuniting families, in the majority of cases I have dealt with the reverse is true. In one instance a family living in a B & B were to be split up, with the 16-year-old son losing his benefit. In another, a young couple was forced to move from their home town of Luton. Their "holiday" in Brighton comprised three nights sleeping in a rooming house, then a move to the DSS offices, and a total of £20 to live on for two weeks. Despite the Government's rhetoric about "common sense" this ruling is about dogma. It will create a class of institutionalised vagrants, unable to vote. How many more suicides will it take before the Government reveals the whole ruling? — Yours, (Clr) Sarah Cullen, 10 Silwood Place, Brighton.

The dislocated arm of the Metropolitan law

Sir,—Richard Wells (Letters, June 20) in attempting to defend the effectiveness of the Metropolitan police, gives voice to a catalogue of elementary criminological errors which serve more as a public relations exercise than as a candid attempt to overcome the crisis of policing in this country.

He informs us that clear-up rates are an "inadequate measure" of police efficiency. This is rather like the managing director of Ford telling us that car production is an inadequate measure of his company's efficiency.

Is the public not right to be concerned about the clear-up of crime? Should Londoners not be worried that the clear-up rate has fallen 13 per cent over the last 10 years despite a 28 per cent increase in police manpower?

Is it not a legitimate cause for concern that the number of crimes cleared up per police officer has fallen over a decade by 18 per cent in the Metropolitan police district to a pitiful 4 per officer, while there has been an 18 per cent rise in the rest of the country?

Mr Wells falls back on the rather worn defence that really serious offences like sexual offences or violence against the person do have

high clear-up rates. This is, of course, true, but the proportion of these offences are committed by people who know the victim well and where the victim, or an acquaintance, informs the police.

It is in those offences where the offender is unknown, and some real detective work is therefore vital, that the clear-up rate is disastrously low. Such offences are indeed ones upon which the police are "unlikely to make a real impact"; but herein lies the key to the current crisis.

The solution of such crimes requires a willing flow of information from the public to the police. Such information flow is declining precisely because of the deteriorating relations between police and public in our inner-city areas.

Nor should the special duties of the Metropolitan police, or the demands of the miners' strike, be allowed to excuse their overall poor performance. The Police Studies Institute survey, commissioned by the police themselves, found that only 2 per cent of police time was devoted to special events, and most of the aid to other forces during the miners' strike was covered by overtime.

The crisis in efficiency of

the Met began a long time before the miners' strike. It is therefore rather difficult to recruit that event as an excuse for the general decline in policing standards.

It ill behoves public relations officers like Richard Wells to criticise those criminologists involved in what he terms "open education". As a matter of fact the majority of criminologists involved in independent research are alarmed by the decline in police performance.

This underscores the need for an independent public body which would audit and evaluate police performance. As it is not only do we suffer a grossly inefficient police force, but we find ourselves paying for a public relations exercise aimed at concealing that inefficiency.

Mr Wells unwittingly contributes to the case for increased public scrutiny and accountability of the police. He concludes that the Met will have to make difficult choices between finely differentiated priorities. Who, we may ask, is to make such choices? At present in the police forces of England and Wales such choices are made by 43 men—chief constables and the Metropolitan police commissioner—who are accountable to absolutely no one.

An involvement of the public, through the channels of local and national government, in choosing and debating those priorities would go a long way to create a police force that enjoys public confidence and cooperation in the joint activity of combating crime.

John Lea, School of Sociology, Middlesex Polytechnic.

Miscellany

Sir,—Richard Boston (Guardian, June 25) should thank his lucky stars he did not attend the same school as Winston Churchill.

The great man tells us (My Early Life) that at the same age, seven, and just one hour after joining the school, his form master explained that the vocative "meat" was used when speaking to a table. Churchill pointed out that he never did speak to tables and promptly was severely punished for impudence. — Yours sincerely, Vic O'Shea, Bristol.

Sir,—Blind MPs (Letters, June 20). What about Henry Fawcett who was blinded in a shooting accident at the age of 24, but went on to become Postmaster-General in Gladstone's Government? — Yours faithfully, Patricia Pegg, Wolverhampton.

Sir,—Contrary to your report about director for the Royal Ballet, the period for which the company was criticised for some fall in standards was during Norman Morrice's illness, which indicates more than his leadership was missed than the contrary. — Yours sincerely, Sylvia Tyler, London ECL.

Sir,—Andrew Veitch, in his article *Mothers' Agony in Caesarean Births* (June 13) quotes the Association for Improvements in Maternity Services as "claiming" that "in three of the main Manchester hospitals—Stepping Hill, Withington and Wythenshawe—between a quarter and a third of all babies are delivered by Caesarean". In fact, the actual figure is less than half this number. — Yours faithfully, J. R. Jones, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Withington Hospital, Manchester.

Ambassador of America's cult of degradation

Sir,—Prof. Higgs could afford to blunder in his analysis of the American attitude to victory (June 24).

The American tough guy — often mindless, coarse of speech, and inarticulate — spread through popular culture in the inter-war years, mainly through the much overrated and meretricious product of the American film industry. For economic reasons, few other countries could compete with or help to balance the world view as presented by Hollywood, with the result that most people today in the West are more deeply influenced in terms of personal aspiration or interpersonal relations by these entirely fictional images than by, for example, religious, social, or political considerations.

The tough guy is America's singular gift to the modern world. There may be some truth in Prof. Higgs's hint that he was spawned by Moby Dick and perhaps partly by Ernest Hemingway. He is certainly now rampant.



loud-mouthed and cocky, in the flood of US books, films and TV which now pour into these islands like bilgewater. In his tiresome conformity to this dismal image, John McGraw should not surprise us. Far from being independent, with direct and spontaneous manifestations of his own personality, John McGraw is predictable, typical, and graceless.

Happily for those like myself who see with sadness the fading of the American dream, all is not lost. Along

side the absurd tradition of the American tough guy exists the more fruitful tradition of decency and grace: Emerson, Whitman, James and Fitzgerald. Jack Higgs does a disservice to his fellow-countrymen when, in their name, he dignifies with the title of religion the cult of degradation which is spreading from America around the world. — Yours sincerely, Ian Flintoff, 22 Chaldon Road, London SW8.

Palestinian chicken and egg

Sir,—Michael Adams (Agenda, June 24) blames Israel and its allies for the current Beirut hostage crisis. Yet in his historical analysis he fails to mention that it was the PLO that brought the present wave of terror, murder, and destruction to Lebanon. From Lebanon the unwelcome PLO waged war on Israel, using the civilian population as a shield against reprisal.

True, the hijack would not have happened were it not for the Israeli invasion of Lebanon; but the invasion would not have happened were it not for the PLO presence in Lebanon, which was very much against the will of its inhabitants. The Shia hijackers are certainly not indiscriminate;

their actions have been planned to discredit Israel and the US as much as possible, with no respect for innocent civilian life. And this sort of action is fanatical violence. Naturally, the Shias see this course of action as rational, but we must condemn it for what it is.

I join Mr Adams in his hopes of an early release of the hijack victims from their ordeal. But from events so far, particularly the separation of those hostages with Jewish-sounding names, it seems the aims of the hijackers are bloody. Cooperation needs care. — Yours faithfully, J. D. Schiff, Trinity College, Cambridge.

So roomy

Sir,—In his report (June 22) of the highly successful launch of Birmingham's bid to host the 1992 Olympic Games, John Rodda suggests this city does not have enough hotel beds to cater for vast numbers of visitors.

He is wrong. In addition to more than 52,700 beds in more than 3,200 hotels, there are many more in private hotels and guest houses, the numbers of which are growing all the time. A top class hotel is being built in the city centre, with yet another almost ready to go into construction. And we believe a further seven major hotel sites will be taken up by 1992. — Yours faithfully, (Clr) Bryan Bird, Birmingham City Council.

A COUNTRY DIARY

DARTMOOR: Dirty weather while driving to the moor caused me to change my plans. I went instead to the Royal Albert Memorial Museum at Exeter where an exhibition of Dartmoor paintings was on view in connection with the city's arts festival. The exhibits reveal the change in attitude to wild landscape which occurred between the 18th and 20th centuries as industrialisation gradually permeated the country. Jane Baker points out in her catalogue that early draughtsmen and chroniclers disliked moorland and described what is now appreciated as a place of escape and refreshment, as dull, dreary waste. While the influence of Romanticism was felt the 1,500 feet average additional height of Snowdonia, the Lake District, and Scottish mountains gave them scale and variety of scenery not matched by Dartmoor's central plateaux. So atmospheric Dartmoor which had been the seat of thriving Bronze Age communities, was somewhat neglected by well-known painters; and when Turner, on one of his tours, painted Buckfast Abbey, the Dart Valley was made to resemble the upper Rhine. But the museum has found no difficulty in filling a gallery with Dartmoor work largely by Devon artists. Some, such as Francis Towne and Samuel Prouit, also made their mark at a national level; most are known only through the records of their home ground. At first they chose bridges and rivers as subjects. Not until the Wilder's father and son, in their whole-hearted interest in the wider world, its valleys, streams and rock formations, for its own sake. The postcard-sized drawings and watercolours of T. A. Falcon gave me much pleasure. BRIAN CRUGG

Etched in invisible ink

Sir,—A belated answer to Dr Caldwell (Letters, June 19). I too hold nature sacred, and respect and admire the Buddhist culture of Ladakh. I hope my work is made in the same spirit; one reason for working in such a powerful place. In a land of footpaths, I hope it is sympathetic and appropriate to make art by walking. It is not my intention to make permanent or monumental works. As the title says, "Walking a Circle

in Ladakh," the mark is made by walking, not "gouging" as stated by Waldemar Januszczak.

I walk only long enough to reveal the darker, wetter layer just beneath the surface. As the circle dries, it disappears and was in fact almost gone by the time I left the pass. The art remains only in the photograph. — Yours, Richard Long, 121 York Road, Bristol.

SHORTLY after noon on Sunday, the tiny volcanic island of La Palma in the Canaries, King Juan Carlos of Spain will inaugurate an exciting scientific project spearheaded by British and European astronomical observatory to rival any in the world.

Almost certainly, the sun will shine on the occasion, as it does most days on La Palma. That is why the observatory was sited there — to take advantage of the excellent and stable clarity and stability that make the island's 8,000-ft-high peak, known as the Roque de los Muchachos, the best lookout post on the universe yet discovered by astronomers.

Already, western Europe's largest optical telescope, the Isaac Newton reflector, has been moved to La Palma from its previous home at the Royal Greenwich Observatory in Sussex, and has been given a new and improved light-gathering mirror, 2.5 metres (100 inches) across, to make the most of the superior sky conditions.

Next year it will be joined by an even larger instrument, with a mirror 4.2 metres (14 feet) wide. Because of its optical excellence this new instrument to be called the William Herschel reflector, promises to show the universe more clearly than any other telescope in the world, even those of larger size (but optically less advanced) in the United States and the Soviet Union.

But while the sun shines on La Palma, clouds are gathering back in Britain. Three days ago a committee of the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC), which hands out government cash for this country's scientific research, met to decide the future of the Royal Greenwich Observatory and its sister institution the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh. Closure of one or both establishments is in prospect. At the root of the problem is a severe financial crisis for SERC, allied to the changing face of astronomy in Britain. In recent years astronomers have given up their unequal weather and have put their telescopes in more favourable locations, including Australia and Hawaii as well as La Palma. Edinburgh runs the telescopes in Australia and Hawaii, while the Royal

The new home for the Isaac Newton telescope on La Palma

On Saturday, western Europe's largest optical telescope gets a royal blessing under the clear skies of the Canaries. But back in Britain the clouds are gathering. Ian Ridpath reports

A view of the stars from a place in the sun

Greenwich Observatory at Herstmonceux is home base for the La Palma operation.

No serious observing is now carried out at Edinburgh, and only a restricted amount of research is being done. Consequently, the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh and the Royal Greenwich Observatory are no longer observatories in the true sense of the word. Inevitably the question arises whether both are now needed, and whether their functions of running the overseas telescopes could not be carried out from some central location, such as the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Oxfordshire, the focal point of Britain's space research effort.

The Royal Greenwich Observatory (RGO) has felt itself under serious threat for the past two years, since a White

hall report compiled by Sir Derek Rayner recommended selling off the magnificent red-brick Herstmonceux Castle, in which the RGO has been based since it moved away from the London smog after the Second World War.

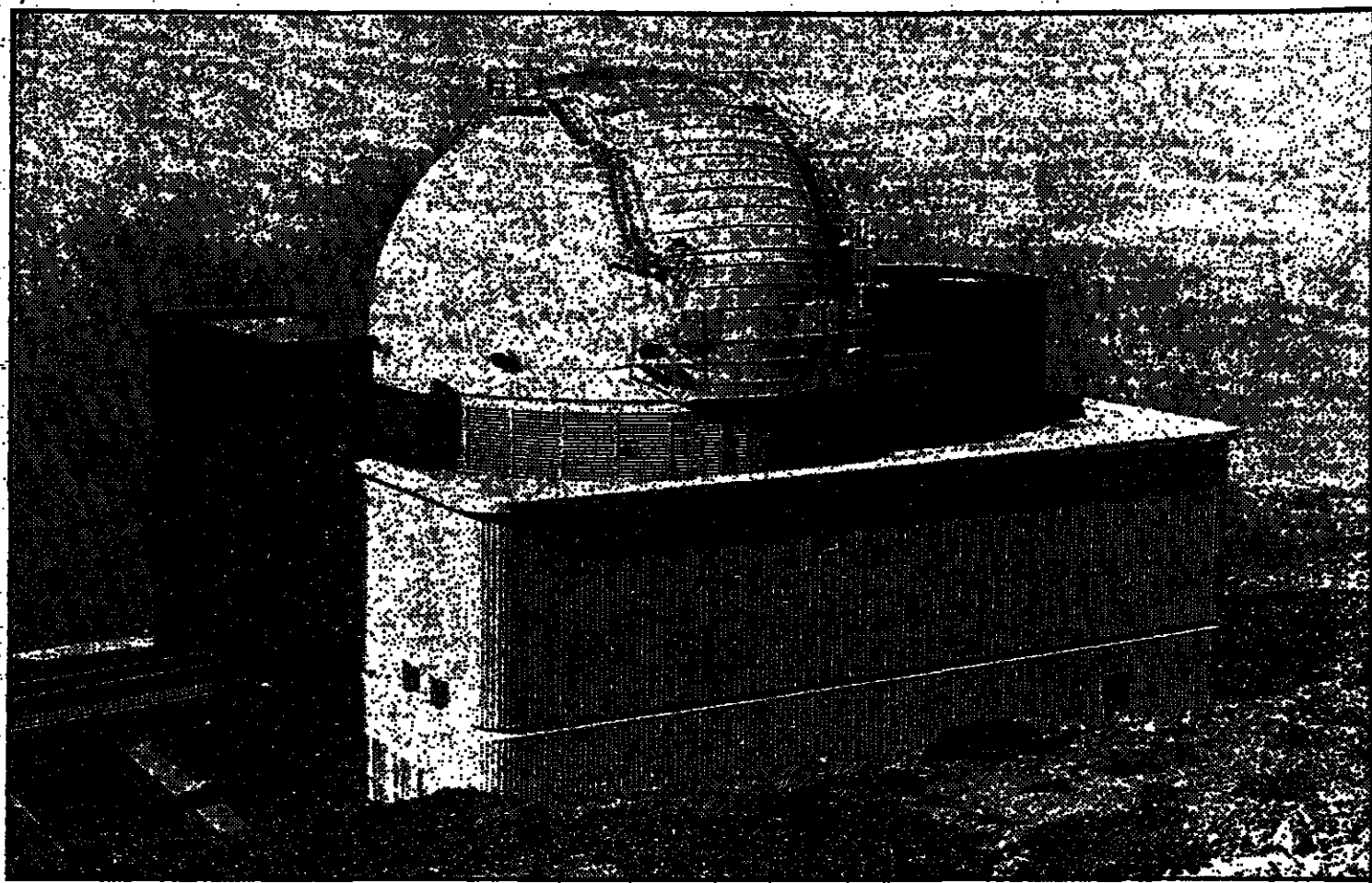
That threat was averted, but the Observatory's staff has been cut from 240 to 190 in the past 18 months, and is due to go even lower, to 128. In its defence, the RGO claims that it has the lowest overheads of any SERC establishment, and that moving it would actually increase costs. This year's RGO budget, £6.5 million, is only 2 per cent of total SERC spending. One real fear is that further cutbacks could seriously jeopardise the RGO's ability to operate the telescopes on La Palma properly, which would cause a row with its European partners in the project.

Such backstage squabbling on the eve of La Palma's official opening, could hardly have come at a more embarrassing time for the RGO. The government has added to the embarrassment by its handling of the arrangements for Saturday's inauguration ceremony. Whereas all the other nations involved — Spain, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands and Ireland — are sending either a monarch or their head of state to represent them, Britain is sending the Queen's cousin, the Duke of Gloucester. Originally, the Prince and Princess of Wales had been expected to attend. Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands is said to have been so dismayed with the British decision that she threatened not to attend the opening, and Juan Carlos reportedly telephoned Buckingham Palace to complain. But the decision remains firm.

Behind the politics, though, lies an observatory that has the potential to be the best in the world. Already there are five telescopes on the mountain, two of them British, with another British telescope to come and probably several more from other nations. The observatory's origin goes back 16 years when British astronomers began searching for a site for what, at that time, they termed the Northern Hemisphere Observatory. They tested locations in Italy, southern Spain, the Cape Verde islands, Madeira, Hawaii, Tenerife and La Palma. Hawaii and La Palma turned out to be the best. Both were chosen, but for different purposes. Hawaii was used for infra-red observations, while La Palma became the preferred site for optical telescopes.

Other European countries expressed interest in putting telescopes on La Palma as well. In 1979, the UK, Sweden and Denmark signed an agreement with Spain (which owns the Canaries) to form the Observatorio del Roque de los Muchachos. Later, Dutch and Irish astronomers bought a share in the UK telescopes. All the effort was worthwhile, for observing conditions on La Palma have turned out to be even better than expected. In fact, in any other observatory site in the world, the atmosphere there is uncommonly clear, dark and steady, which is vital to produce crisp images and to see faint objects. At present, the largest telescope working on the mountain is the Isaac Newton reflector, with its own 2.5-m mirror. Astronomers are ec-

static that this telescope performs as well as telescopes of 4-m size elsewhere, such as at Kitt Peak in Arizona and the Anglo-Australian Telescope in New South Wales. The reason is the excellence of the site, coupled with the top-quality instruments attached to the telescope which bring every drop of information from the faint light collected by its precisely polished mirror. The smallest of the British telescopes, named the Kapteyn telescope after a famous Dutch astronomer, has a mirror 1 metre in diameter and is used for projects such as measuring the brightness of stars and the positions of galaxies that do not require the immense light-grip of the Isaac Newton reflector. Also on the mountain, Sweden operates a small 60 cm reflector for studying the temperature and composition



of stars, as well as a telescope for observing our parent star, the sun. Denmark has supplied a telescope for pinpointing the positions of the stars in the Transit Circle after the Danish brewery that contributes to its upkeep.

When King Juan Carlos and the other dignitaries inspect these instruments on Saturday, they will notice a new building still under construction nearby, to house the jewel in the observatory's crown: the 4.2-m William Herschel telescope which, if the experience of its smaller brother is anything to go by, should easily outperform every other optical telescope on Earth, including the 5-m giant on Mount Palomar. It will reach so far out in space, and so far back in time, that it should answer many questions about the origin of the universe.

Like the other British telescopes on La Palma (and also the Carlsberg transit circle), this instrument was named by Grubb Parsons in Newcastle upon Tyne, one of the world's leading telescope makers for over a century. But it was their latest telescope. After completing it, Grubb Parsons was due to close with loss of jobs.

Consequently, it may not have been a coincidence that the 4.2-m mirror became mysteriously scratched during the final polishing stages, requiring an extra six months work to get it good. Now, the valuable finished mirror is being guarded to prevent any more mysterious scratches appearing before it is shipped to La Palma in the autumn.

In this day of satellite links, it is no longer necessary for astronomers to travel to the mountain to observe. All the British telescopes have been designed so that they can be operated by a mole control from this country, over normal telephone lines. In years to come, astronomers will simply sit at a computer terminal in the UK, staring at the telescope's 2,000 video screens and watching the view on their video screens.

King Charles II, who founded the Royal Greenwich Observatory over 300 years ago, would have been amazed.

Ian Ridpath is a writer and broadcaster on astronomy and space.

SOME BIRDS look after nestlings that are not their own. That seems a strange thing to do. Natural selection should favour individuals that maximize their own reproductive output — their own genetic fitness as biologists put it. So why do some birds act in such an altruistic manner instead of rearing youngsters of their own? A recent workshop in Cambridge tried to find out the answer to this apparent anomaly.

Individuals cooperate at breeding in more than a hundred and fifty species of birds, including several types of starling, bee-eaters and babblers but it is still a relatively uncommon thing to do. Biologists have tried to find a common factor that could account for this behaviour but, at first sight, there seems little in common between the different species of cooperative breeders.

At one end of the spectrum are birds that live in small groups with members of the group either breeding themselves or helping the others to rear youngsters. Chestnut-bellied starlings in Nigeria, studied by Roger Wilkinson, for example, live in groups of ten to thirty individuals.

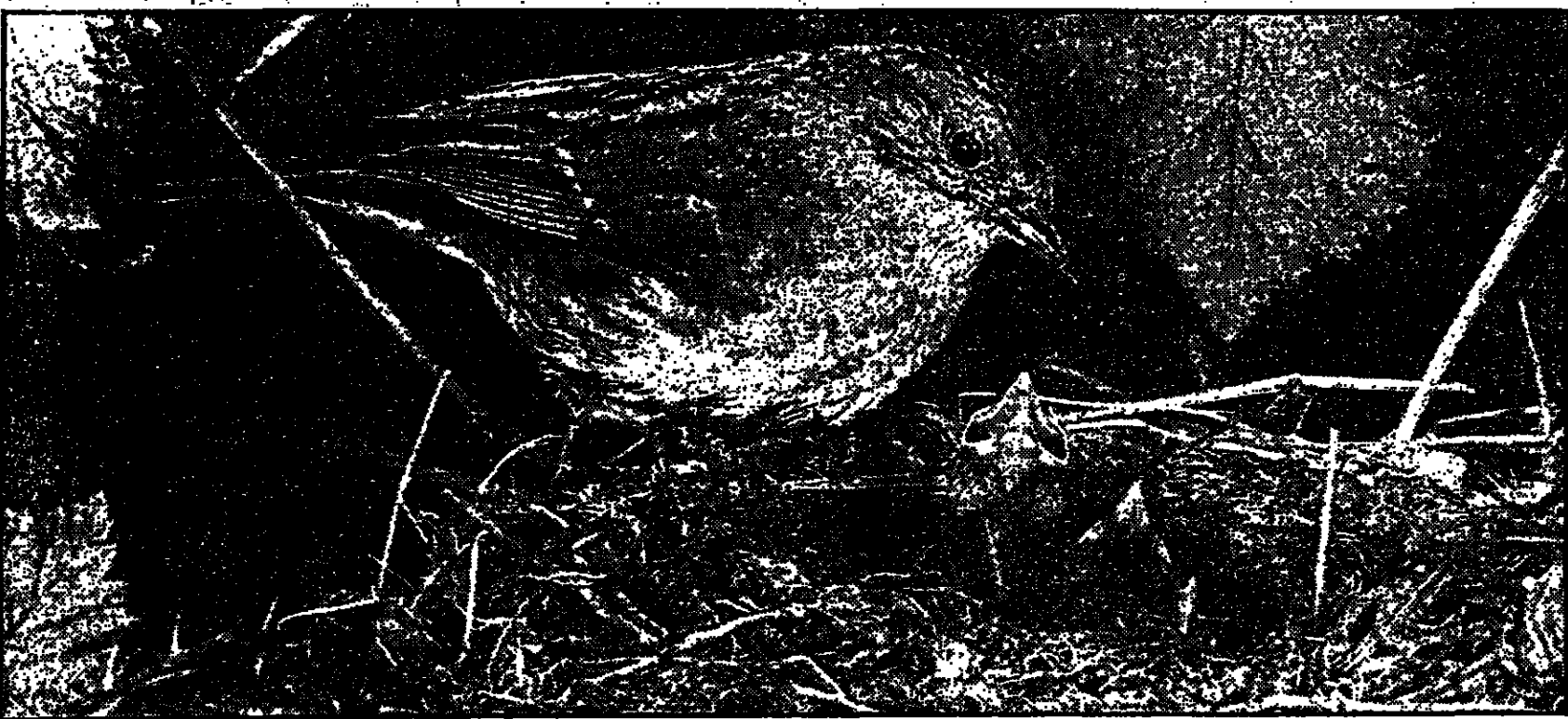
Each group has its own territory and contains up to four breeding pairs plus helpers. These helpers feed and defend the nestlings in the group and there can be up to twelve birds helping at a single nest. Similarly, ant-chats (thrush-like birds) in Kenya, studied by Volker Haas, live in family groups of two to fifteen individuals which either breed or help.

At the other extreme are the non-territorial bee-eaters, studied by Mark Avery and Humphrey Crick. These birds breed in colonies but usually only the parents themselves look after the chicks; about one in three red-throated bee-eater pairs gets some help, usually from one, rarely two or three other birds.

However, a common theme did arise at the workshop. Cooperative breeders seem either to have difficulty in monopolising a resource or it is vital for some other reason they are unable to breed throughout the usual breeding season. European bee-eaters help at other

Some birds of a feather do more than just flock together. Angela K. Turner investigates why certain species are dedicated to helping their neighbours while, below, Stephen Young reports on how blackbirds and robins share the chores around the home in the interests of efficiency.

Cooperation flies into the nest



The duncock: variations in mating (Picture by Eric Hosking).

nests, for example, if they have tried but failed to breed themselves that season. In some species, such as ant-chats, youngsters can not get a territory of their own because all the suitable habitat is occupied by breeding pairs and there is no room for new territories.

A bird that can not get a territory or a breeding partner or that has nested but lost its eggs or brood could just skulk around and wait for an opportunity to breed to come along. In some species of bird, non-breeding individuals do just that. But such an individual could derive some benefit by helping at the nest of another pair of birds if such an opportunity

exists; and that is better than doing nothing. So helpers help because they are unable to breed or have failed to breed themselves but they also derive some benefit from helping. There is a selfish purpose to being altruistic!

There are several possible benefits to helping. A young helper can get some experience at breeding without incurring the costs of doing everything itself. There is also safety in numbers: being part of a close-knit group makes it easier to detect approaching predators. Being in a group also improves access to food and other vital resources. Perhaps most importantly, though, is the relationship between the

helper and those who are helped. Helpers often help their own parents. Four out of every five chestnut-bellied starling helpers, for example, feed their younger brothers and sisters. Young ant-chats remain in the group where they were hatched and so help their relatives. And bee-eaters also help at the nests of relatives. Improving the success of your close relatives is an indirect way of improving your own genetic fitness because your relatives share some of your genes. So if you can not breed yourself helping your kin to breed is the next best thing.

But do helpers really help? Are pairs with helpers more successful at rearing

nestlings than those without? Chestnut-bellied starling helpers increase the rate at which food is brought to the nests and also increase the number of fledglings reared per nest. However, helpers may not always improve the breeding success of those they help. Pairs with helpers may be birds that would produce more young anyway compared to birds that do not get any help. For example, Mark Avery showed that productive or hard-working bee-eaters are the ones that have the helpers.

Even if helpers do not improve fledgling success, they could help their kin in another way. Humphrey Crick suggested that helpers could lighten the work-load of their

relatives at little cost to themselves. This in turn may improve the survival of the relatives. Thus, because of their reduced work-load, female red-throated bee-eaters who have helpers are heavier than females who have to manage without any help.

But there are other — selfish — reasons for helping your kin. These reasons concern opportunities rather than immediate benefits. Territories or mates are often hard to come by. The only means of getting a territory may be to stay at home and inherit the territory at a later date. Helping relatives to breed is a sensible strategy if you are forced to stay home and wait for a parent to die.

Glen Woolfenden and John Fitzpatrick suggest that this is the main reason why Florida scrub jays help to feed the nestlings of other individuals (The Florida Scrub Jay: Demography of a Cooperatively Breeding Bird 1985 Princeton University Press). It is not surprising, therefore that many cooperative breeders are tropical, since tropical birds tend to have long life-spans, live in stable environments with little opportunity to make new territories and can afford to delay reproduction.

As well as the question of inheritance there is the matter of paternity. A male helper may have an opportunity to mate with the female of the pair thus fathering at least some of the brood he later helps to look after. If he is unable to get a partner of his own that may be his best strategy. At least he will then produce some offspring of his own.

This is what happens in the British duncock, studied by Nick Davies at Cambridge. This bird has a very variable way of mating. One male can mate with one or more females of a single female can breed with more than one male. In the last situation one of the males is dominant over the other and probably fathers most of the offspring. But the other male also tries to mate with the female. If, and only if, he is successful in this he then helps to feed the resulting brood. If he does not manage to mate with her he destroys her clutch of eggs so that she has to renege. He then has a second opportunity to mate with her.

So, as Nick Davies pointed out, sharing paternity can be important in determining whether or not an individual helps others. But as yet the importance of this for other cooperative breeders is not known. Other reasons for helping, such as inheriting a territory or helping kin when breeding oneself is not possible could explain why helpers help but, as Roger Wilkinson commented at the workshop, different theories may be needed to explain cooperative breeding in different species.

Angela K. Turner is at the Glasgow University Department of Zoology.

It looks as if cock robin gets custody of his daughters, while the hen mothers her sons

KNOW THAT the summer is allegedly the time when birds are in the peck of the woods. Some of these creatures, such as the great tit, may be making as many as 500 trips every day to satisfy their youngsters' huge appetites. This urge to thrust grub and other goodies down the throats of voracious nestlings is so strong that it lines occasionally goes awry. One of the most bizarre cases on record concerns a cardinal, a North American member of the hummingbird family, which regularly poked worms down the gullets of a group of neighbouring goldfinches.

Such cases matter rather automatic and unselfish. But there is more to feeding a bunch of fledglings than meets the eye. The new research comes from P. J. Edwards, who kept

a close watch on Oxford's blackbirds and from D. G. C. Harper, who probed the private lives of Cambridge's robins. Both scientists focused on the way the hen and cock manage the task of feeding the fledglings once they have left the nest. And often report that the brood is split into two distinct camps, with mother feeding some of the youngsters and father taking care of the remainder. Neither parent feeds its partner's charges.

These divided families are not just the result of temporary separations. Often they stay divided for the whole of the time it takes for the young birds to become independent — about 30 days for both species.

Not all broods are completely bisected; in some instances, one or two fledglings remain the parents' joint

responsibility. But in those that are completely split, it looks as if the cock is given custody of his daughters, while the hen mothers her sons. There is a suggestion that the same applies to blackbirds.

Robins and blackbirds produce two or three chicks in a good year. But it is usually only the final brood that gets divided. For both birds, the normal procedure with earlier broods is that the male does most of the feeding of the fledglings. That trend makes sense from the birds' viewpoint. Consider the position of a hen blackbird whose brood has hatched early in the season. Once the fledglings are up and running, she faces a dilemma. If she leaves all the feeding to her mate, then her offspring are just that little bit less likely to make it to independence than if she helps him. On the other hand,

if she divides the brood with the cock, it will take longer for her to get around to laying the next clutch. In fact, it takes about a week longer for every fledgling she feeds. So her overall output of youngsters for the year will suffer.

Her behaviour has to be a compromise between getting the brood to independence as quickly as possible and bringing her previous one to maturity. Her normal solution is to leave the bulk of her early brood to her mate once they have fledged, but to split the care of the final brood with him.

Once the two halves of the family have embarked on separate development, all parties seem to work to maintain the status quo. A blackbird intent on feeding one of its allocated youngsters will ignore a hungry fledgling belonging to its mate. Robins have a similar ability to turn a deaf ear to their partners'

chicks. Fledglings also play a part in keeping the family fragmented, since they are more likely to beg from the correct parent.

Why do avian parents share the chores in this fashion instead of both providing food for the entire family? One idea is that the fledglings' food supply is controlled more exactly in a divided brood. A sharp division of labour means that a parent knows just how many worms and other delicacies its own chicks have received. If both parents fed all the fledglings, some could end up with two dinners — and some could go without.

Perhaps brood division is also a way of making more food available to the youngsters. With only half the number of mouths to find and feed, parents may waste less time searching for their offspring. That means more time can be spent foraging. Dr Harper provided an abundant supply of juicy maggots to some divided families of robins. The divisions were instantly abolished, only to reappear as soon as the extra food supply was withdrawn. That suggests that they represent a solution to the problem of provisioning the brood. Could the observation that robin parents tend to take charge of fledglings of the opposite sex shed any light on the causes of the behaviour? There are a number of possibilities, all of them speculative at the moment. For example, it could pay cock robins to resist taking charge of their sons, who are, after all, potential rivals in subsequent seasons. The association between parents and offspring of the opposite sex may even prepare the ground for later attachments of a sexual nature. On the other hand, it

may be the simplest way in which a pair of robins can split up a family.

As far as the birds in my garden are concerned, I shall be looking out for signs of family breakdown. Single parent blackbirds should be on the watch for the male is jet black and the female brown. But as far as robins are concerned, I fear the sexes are too similar for easy identification. Dr Harper explains that the female's wings tend to be shorter than her mate's, but somehow I suspect I shall be unable to make that discrimination from the kitchen window.

References: Blackbirds are discussed in *Ibis* vol. 127, p. 42; Robins are in *Animal Behaviour* vol. 33, p. 468.

Stephen Young

Growing pains

GENETIC engineering takes another leap into science fiction this week as the nucleus of a cell is transplanted into the laboratory of the first farm animals with test-tube manufactured genes.

Dr Ralph L. Brinster of the Laboratory of Reproductive Physiology in the University of Pennsylvania and his colleagues injected the genes

involved — a construct containing a gene for human growth hormone — by micro-pipette into the nuclei of some 5,000 fertilized egg cells of rabbits, pigs, and sheep, and implanted the resulting eggs into the womb of a foster-mother. Of these eggs 500 resulted in 200 viable babies, of which 28 rabbits, 1 sheep, and 20 pigs had successfully incorporated the new gene.

This represents a breakthrough, because previously such experiments have been done with animals which are technically relatively "easy" to experiment on — such as frogs with their large eggs, and the familiar laboratory mouse. But the nuclei of rabbits, sheep, and pigs are tiny — less than a millionth of an inch across — and moreover the contents of pig eggs are opaque, and in sheep's eggs the nucleus is normally invisible.

In the first case the trick proved to be centrifugation, spinning the pig's eggs at high speed in a centrifuge to draw the fluid from the egg to one side leaving the nucleus in the middle. In the other to use a sensitive technique of optical microscopy called "interference contrast" microscopy to reveal the nucleus. Dr Brinster was able to inject the tiny nucleus with a millionth of a millionth of a point of a fluid, a "microdrop" containing a few hundred copies of the test-tube genes. It happens that the growth hormone gene injected was human, as that was the only growth-promoting gene the scientists had to hand. "But in the mouse we've found that rabbit, bovine and human growth hormones all have the same effect even though the detailed structures are different," the biologist who provided the gene, Dr Richard D. Palmiter of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at the University of Washington in Seattle, said.

Palmiter, a molecular biologist, and his physiologist collaborator Dr Brinster were last year the first to succeed in growing and breeding "transgenic" mice, mice containing the same gene now transferred into rabbits, sheep and pigs. Mice with the gene generated large amounts of growth hormone and grew huge.

The next step with the animals was to see if the genes are transferred through the germ cells into the next generation. And work must be done to improve the efficiency with which the hormone is pressed. Then giant pigs, sheep and rabbits may be a reality. *Ref: Nature* vol 315 no. 6,021 (June 20, 1985).

Robert Walgate

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FUTURES MICRO GUARDIAN

Just one small programming error could start world war three or a space disaster. The bigger and older the program, the more fraught with danger, David Bodanis reports

The catastrophe program

A FLICKERING TV screen is a terrifying sight. Stand back, after fixing it and the clear screen starts to squiggle: fix it again, then sit down and the squiggles have been replaced by snow.

Big computer programs are worse, much worse, than those with salaries of more than £20,000 a year. It's hard to find enough people to fix all the programs that regularly go wrong.

The reason is that many computer programs are horribly messy objects, with pieces wedged in here, or stretching commands wending over there, the whole being such a tangle that once completed they are impenetrable to creator and outsider alike.

This can produce spectacular effects. When the Mariner 1 Venus probe was blown up after launch in 1962, it was because of a one word mistake in its programming, a mistake which nobody had been able to notice ahead of time because the programming was too complex.

The postponement of the first Space Shuttle flight came because of a fault somewhere in the timing control of its several million lines of onboard software, which frantic programmers were unable to pick out even in several hours hunting while the TV covered Shuttle was on the pad.

Those faults were merely embarrassing, and expensive. Far more serious was the cockpit that happened on June 3, 1980. Early that morning the computers of the US North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) sent out, in quick succession, warnings of attacks on the US.

The computers said that the attack was coming from two Soviet submarine missiles, then that more submarine missiles had joined the attack, and finally, after the American pilots had scrambled and were waiting in their nuclear-armed B-2 jets, warnings that a full-scale Soviet ICBM launch had begun.

In investigations later it appeared that NORAD officials were terrified of the software responsible. They had no monitors to let them know what the computers were being sent out, as patching in such monitors could interfere with the flow of data. They had no comprehensive checking software to pick out equipment faults such as the one at the heart of the disaster, because no one had been able to design software that would do the checking and yet not interfere with the original software.

If the officials had become aware that their computers had found something, and they wanted to confirm that it was not some innocuous object already in orbit, they would have had to check verbally with staff in a Space Surveillance Center in a nearby room: they were scared to hook their computer up with the computer of the space surveillance people because they could not guarantee that the program doing the hooking up would not make things worse.

All this involved one of the most important computers in the world, in an organisation that had near limitless funds for programmers. How did things ever get in such a mess?

Early computer programs were simple things, sometimes with just a few hundred or a few thousand logical steps.

At that level it was easy to write them in what seemed

the most obvious way, going through one section after another of the problem until everything was finished. When there was a complication, commands could be put in to jump to another part of the program where the details of that problem could be worked out.

As programs got much longer, however, say from around the late 1950s, this approach broke down. While for the programmer it seemed natural to cram in one partial solution after another as he went, along, once he had finished there would be no overall form to the program that any outsider could see. This made finding errors hard. If there's a knot at a certain point in an otherwise straight length of string, it's easy to find and then undo. But if there's the same unintended knot in a string that is tangled up in a gigantic ball knot itself, then finding the unintended one is much harder.

Possibly the worst point came with the introduction of the IBM 360 computer in the 1960s. The software of its operating system was a disaster. It had errors, was held back so that IBM programmers could try to find and fix them, was released, had more errors, was recalled, and etc. The whole thing cost IBM several hundred million dollars, and as the 360 and similar machines were being used in many military systems, helped prompt the 1965 NATO conference on "the software crisis".

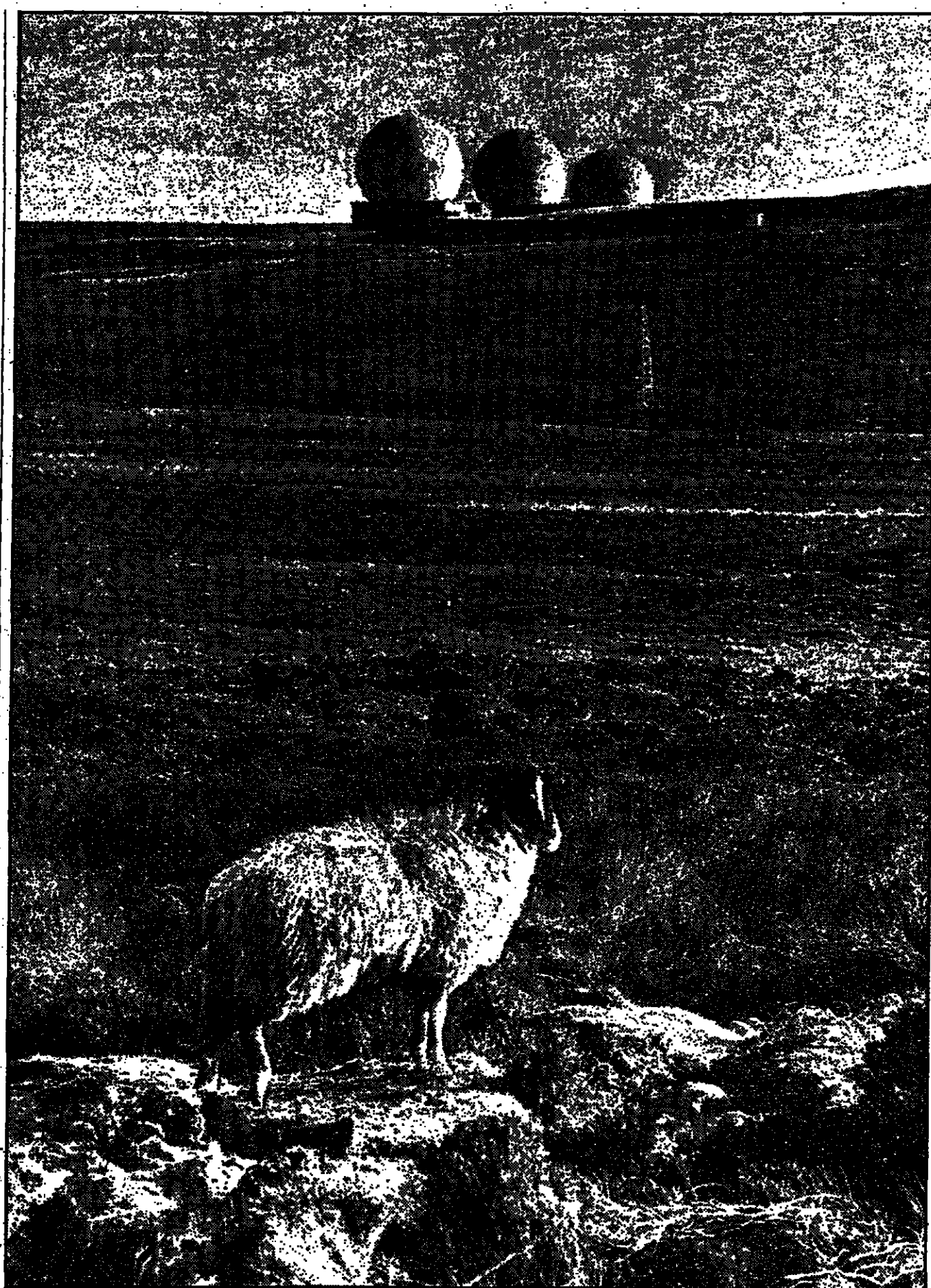
It was not clear what the solution could be. No one wanted to produce bad software, but as projects kept getting larger that's all even the most highly paid programmers could come up with.

Putting more programmers on important projects didn't help, as that meant more second-guessing, more divisions into sub-sections, and accordingly more section-jumping "goto" commands to straighten up the individual bits.

The answer came in some musings of the Dutch computer scientist, Edsger Dijkstra, who in 1968 produced a privately distributed paper called Notes on Structured Programming. In it, he showed how programmers could structure their tasks into clearly identifiable sub-blocks, and then, most importantly, work out the various parts of the structure without those confusing "goto" commands that wended in such a tangled way inside the old programs.

A program written this way was wonderfully clear. Because it was built in distinct sub-sections, project managers could see what each part was supposed to be doing. If there was any problem in its working, they could will the exact portion where the fault must have come from. And since each sub-section had a clear task it was also easy to change a program: all the programmers needed to do was create a new sub-section, check that it booked up neatly with the sub-sections around it, then slot it into the old sub-section's place.

If this technique was introduced in 1968, why is prog-



Flyingduals: no proper update since the sixties. (Picture by Don McPhee)

ramming still so poor? Why do programmers still spend much of their time fixing other programmers' errors, and why do the expensive military machines as at NORAD, still foul-up so easily?

The first reason is that Dijkstra's revolution was only a partial revolution. Traditional programmers fought it as much as they could. Many had entered programming because of the excitement of writing out programs that only they understood, and then having the even greater excitement of solving one debugging problem after another as errors in its working came up.

With structured programming the thrill of individual glory was out. Tasks were outlined, sub-sections were assigned, careful testing was done — teamwork was in. It was the end of the traditional craftsman methods, and the beginning of a profession. There is a nice analogy to

the professionalisation of electrical engineers towards the end of the last century. These were men who had prided themselves on their intuitive feel for their speciality. For small projects that was all right, but as the tasks grew they were set to work on their traditional techniques started to fail. In particular

building long-distance phone lines became nearly impossible, because of the problem of self-inductance along the wires.

The only way to understand and counter self-inductance was to use Maxwell's mathematical theory of fields. Institutes for electrical engineers began to be set up, and students had to acquire a grounding in the more advanced mathematics. The time, despite much protest, the old-style intuitive workers were left out.

Computer programming is still in the middle of the battle. Few workers have a real grounding in the most advanced mathematics. They say that the usual approach is good enough for most projects, that a full theoretical approach would be overkill.

The new guard, however, say this isn't good enough. There are a lot of insults. In a pamphlet of the Oxford University Computing Laboratory's Programming Research Group, C. A. R. Hoare declared: "Most pilots never crash a plane. Most surgeons never kill a patient. Most civil engineers never build a bridge which collapses. Until each programmer displays this kind of professional accuracy and responsibility, all our claims to professional status are subject to doubt. It's true that one does not use structural engineering analysis to build a sandcastle. But neither does one choose the prize-winning builder of sandcastles as architect for a tower block of offices in a city."

To the extent that structures programming is winning the battle, on large projects, it works better. One of the first examples was the computerised information bank that the New York Times set up in the early 1970s. Designed by programmers who had studied Dijkstra's work, it worked, almost perfectly, first time.

Other firms wanted this efficiency, and structured techniques spread. Project managers could count on structured work coming out better: non-technical executives liked it too because it made it easier for them to talk to the programmers they had hired, to integrate into their firm the set-up of clear specifications, sub-sections, guaranteed delivery dates and all the rest.

The French for example did this with their computerised phone switching system, to great success. It started after Britain's troubled System X and is now exporting well. In one sphere, however, even these successes could not bring about the switch. For very important software, no one would dare bring in the new approach: the old programs had generally been messed around with so much to get the errors out that no one could read them properly to see how they worked.

If for example you tried to add a new section on to an NORAD software so it could check its findings against the files of the Space Surveillance Center, you would have no way of guaranteeing that the new section would not distort some other part of the program in ways you couldn't predict. All the "goto" linkage instructions from the

sloppy original programming would spread the change.

There have been efforts to change major pieces of pre-structured programming, but it's difficult. The air traffic computer responsible for flights including those out of Heathrow and Gatwick, for example, is at the London Air Traffic Control Centre at West Drayton. As it was purchased from IBM in the early 1970s, the coding within it was written in the late 1950s, which means that much of it was not clearly structured at all.

British programmers have been working at it more than ten years and though they think they have cleared up some of the most tangled portions, they still have to limit the changes they dare to put in. According to Mr C. R. Walton, deputy director of data processing there: "We can't rewrite it all, for we don't have the time, though it would be great to do."

That air traffic computer is perfectly safe. It's for the even larger military systems that the problem is worse. Defence officials have been disingenuous, giving the impression that their equipment uses the most modern technology. For large systems this is often just not so.

Computers have changed, but not always the software, especially the operating systems that control large warning radar at Fylingdales. For example, can detect only a few dozen individual Russian warheads. Instead of the thousands that might come in a full attack, it was designed in the early 1960s when the Russians had fewer missiles than now. The software, it seems, has been unable to be properly updated since then.

(As one consequence this would mean Ronald Reagan would have only his good nature to decide if a positive signal from the powerful radars at Fylingdales meant that there was a full-on Russian attack, demanding instant retaliation, or just a few isolated warheads, which could justify waiting for more information.)

What all this means is that we are stuck with the worst of the past, exactly in the areas where it is most important to be up-to-date. According to Professor Tony Hall, at the Oxford Computing Laboratory: "If you get a new idea in software today, you often can't use it because users want this continuity with past designs."

"We often find 20-year-old software floating around at the centre of what are supposed to be 'up-to-date' systems."

The sins of unprofessional programmers are ours today.

REFERENCES: For Dijkstra see *Sci. of Software*, Science 84, Feb. 1964; on the 1980 nuclear alert and on Fylingdales-Moor, US Command and Control, New Yorker, April 1, 1985; for one side of the controversy in programming, *Programming*, Oxford University Computing Laboratory, Research Group, technical monograph 27, on early electrical engineers. The British Electrical Debate, Isis, 74, n. 273, Sept. 1983.

Jack Schofield examines the latest revelations of a teenage computer cracksmen

How to get hackers out of your system

NOW THAT "I was a teenage werewolf" produces less reaction than "I was a teenage hacker", there is a large market for books that reveal all. In Britain, Hugo Cornwell's *The Hacker's Handbook* (Century Communications) has become a best seller. In the United States, Bill Landreth's *Out of the Inner Circle* (Microsoft Press) has achieved similar success, reaching number 18 in the general best seller lists.

Landreth's book is presented in true True Confessions style. He is "The Cracker", the teenage computer wizard apparently by the FBI and indicted by a Federal Grand Jury, now telling his story to, or with, Howard Rheingold. Penguin Books has just published the UK edition at £2.95.

Both books deal with the adolescent sport of "hacking", which means using a micro with a modem to contact other people's computer systems over the telephone line, and break into them. The Inner Circle was an elite group of hackers dedicated to doing just that.

In other respects the two books are very different. The Hacker's Handbook is a communications primer aimed at home computer users. It tells you lots about computers, and even less about the large computer systems that are favoured targets. Out of the Inner Circle, by contrast, aimed mainly at the people who own and run large systems, or perhaps use them. It reveals quite a lot about the security of mini and mainframe computers, and the hacker approach.

Hackerdom is evidently better developed in America than here. Where Hugo Cornwell identifies the dedicated "cracker" and the dedicated "cracker", Landreth identifies five types of hacker and five levels of hack.

Cornwell observes: "Anyone can become a trivial hacker: you acquire, from someone else, a phone



The cracker's story: five levels of hack revealed

number and a password to a system; you dial up, wait for the whistle, tap out the password, browse around for a few minutes and log off." He is too kind to say this is not really hacking at all.

Crackers generally mess up files and try to stop the system working, which earns the contempt of true hackers. But

crackers are rare. Thieves are even rarer, at least in hackerdom: almost all computer fraud is done by employees, i.e. from inside. Landreth was a dedicated hacker of the student type, who not only wants to get in but "to find his way to the top of the system, undetected. His goal, the rights and privileges of the sysop (system operator) himself and, with them, the freedom to explore the computer and its files at will." There are few, if any, hackers of this standard in the UK.

Fortunately, even non-dedicated hackers can get a long way, simply because many sysops and the vast majority

of users have no idea what's going on. Both Cornwell and Landreth agree that the main cause of computer insecurity is ignorance. Landreth says: "If it weren't for password misuse, at least 80 per cent of all hackers would never see the inside of a large computer." In the UK the total must be more than 95 per cent.

The two great British hacks — Prince Philip's Prestel mailbox, and the BBC TV's Mervyn's mailbox on Telecom Gold — seem both to have resulted from password misuse.

Typical user idiocies include using single letters or numbers as passwords, using their own or company-derived names, or really obvious words like secret, password, hello, ok and so on. Landreth estimates that if a user chose a random six-character password it would take a hacker 12,500 years to try every combination of letters in upper and lower case. But users actually choose passwords that are easy to remember, so they are also relatively easy to hack.

Worse, users who log on to several different systems often use the same password for more than one. Cracking a simple password on a low security system may therefore give the hacker immediate access to the corporate mainframe.

Companies are equally lax, and often allow hackers on through the use of dial passwords, perhaps intended for the use of salesmen or engineers. Examples include demo, test, system, display, call, games, remote and check. Cornwell notes: "Sometimes the lack of security at exhibitions and demonstrations defies belief. When ICL launched One Per Desk, I embarked on a modest roadshow to give hands-on experience to prospective purchasers. The demonstration models had been pre-loaded with phone numbers of senior ICL directors, of the ICL mainframe at its headquarters in Putney and various other remote services." It happens all the time.

Both books perform a useful function. The Hacker's Handbook has little of value to real hackers, but is a useful introduction to setting up and using a home micro for communications, for which there is a large and growing number of legitimate users. Out of the Inner Circle might stimulate a few novice hackers to become students, though it contains no "how to" information of much real use. However, it would be a useful book for system operators, on a mailing list and will receive copies of the consultative document, but the British Logo Users Group is not among them? That teachers have been told to start working from the new syllabus some six weeks before the end of the public consultation period?

Breaking the hack attack

LANDRETH says the best procedure is to choose a six-letter word then add two random characters, like RINGER SQ or STICKS CJ. The result is much easier to remember than passwords like GXLWTDPS but, because of the length and random characters, almost impossible to hack.

If the system allows it, you can also include non-alphabetic characters such as <, >, —, and !. Even better — again, if allowed — are passphrases like THE CAT JUMPED QUICKLY, which would be virtually impossible to hack.

The final message is not, however, as dramatic as the War Games and the sensationalist stories in the tabloid press might have you believe. Landreth sums it up thus: "Computer owners and system operators should take the time to educate their users. If they did, hacking as it is today would fall to such a low level of activity it could be considered dead. It's that simple."

Sir, — I must apologise to Mr R. Thornton (Micro Guardian, May 30 and June 13) if I have unintentionally slighted the Comal language. My point was that the report of the Joint Working Party contained serious errors of fact and that if these had gone uncorrected then a mistaken decision on the syllabus would probably have followed.

To the issues I raised on May 30, I would like to add others. Is the JWP aware that Comal has been tried in Denmark and in the Netherlands, but adopted in neither? That as I mentioned before, the inventor of Comal now says he thinks Logo is better? That five thousand people are on a mailing list and will receive copies of the consultative document, but the British Logo Users Group is not among them? That teachers have been told to start working from the new syllabus some six weeks before the end of the public consultation period?

So disquieting are all these points that since my original letter was published I have received a small pile of fan-mail including two requests to write articles for magazines and three invitations to participate in conferences. This does not indicate academic confidence. It means that many teachers and educators are mystified by the choice of Comal when Dartmouth Basic, BBC Basic and Logo were the only obvious contenders.

I also wonder whether Comal's strong and weak points have affected the material that has been included in and omitted from the syllabus. It is dismal reading, dominated by grinding data processing, operations like sorting, searching, merging files, formatting output and electronic mail — like teaching English with topics like handwriting, spelling, knowledge of conventional similes and the names of the young of certain animals.

A different language might have meant less DP content, but would have meant that the more interesting, strategy games, adventure programs, machine vision and automatic reasoning, for instance, could have been included and given a more rounded picture of real computing.

LETTERS:

Logo logic

The final consultative document will be available in a couple of weeks from the Scottish Examinations Board, 15 Ironmills Road, Dalkeith, Edinburgh. Comments must be received there by October 1. — Sincerely, K. R. Johnson, Artificial Intelligence Applications Institute, University of Edinburgh.

Sir, — The best argument for preferring Logo to any of its rivals for computer language for secondary schools is that the pupils will be familiar with it, having learnt to use it at primary school. So why make them start again from scratch? It is perhaps because something that is easy to learn seems not worth learning?

The onus of proof is on the advocates of other languages (and Comal is only one of half a dozen contenders) to show that there is a class of task which Logo cannot handle satisfactorily, and their favourite can, and their favourite can, and their favourite can.

Sir, — The Alvey Committee, which in 1982 laid out a plan for the advanced information technology in the United Kingdom, concluded: "We support the moves which are now putting computing on a good footing in schools with microcomputers. This will merely produce a generation of poor Basic programmers. Universities, in fact, are having to remedial education to entrants with a level computer science. Teachers must be properly trained, and the languages taught chosen with an eye to the future. Unrecorded, the explosion in home computing with its 1980s and 1980s programming style will make this problem even worse."

Comal was a hybrid, a compromise designed to make the best of several bad jobs. Like Basic, it leads

nowhere. As far as I know, there are no major projects to extend or develop it, but the new generations of computers now being made available.

The most interesting aspect of Logo today is its ability to keep pace with the development of hardware. The latest Logo from Edinburgh, written for the Research Machines Nimbus, allows for concurrent processes. Logo is a protean language, allowing programmers to build new data and control structures with the greatest of ease. Furthermore, Logo is increasingly supported by a rich literature, offering material suited to all levels of sophistication, from the kindergarten to university.

The limitation on the language usually comes from the hardware side. Logo is a greedy language where memory is concerned (this problem is disappearing fast as new 16-bit machines with fast processors appear). But education should be concerned with the richness of a programming environment, and its accessibility, not its data processing efficiency.

Perhaps Scotland is supporting Comal from a sense of northern solidarity with Denmark. Perhaps they should also teach Danish or Finnish, instead of French or Spanish, as the preferred second language in Scottish schools. It would be an error of the same order of magnitude as their decision to adopt Comal in preference to Logo. Perhaps the oddest feature of the affair is that it has deep roots in Scotland going back almost 30 years. — Yours sincerely, Christopher Roper, Belton, Leicestershire.

Sir, — My attention has been drawn to a reference in May 30 of "Seascale radioactive materials on the move". Seascale is, in fact, a village some distance south of the nuclear plant at Sellafield and the villagers are concerned that the plant is a danger to their health. The reference to "Seascale radioactive materials" is likely to be a detrimental effect on the village's tourist trade. — Yours faithfully, Neville Denison, Chief Executive, Copeland Borough Council, Whitehaven.

APPOINTMENTS Science and Technology □ Computing □ General □

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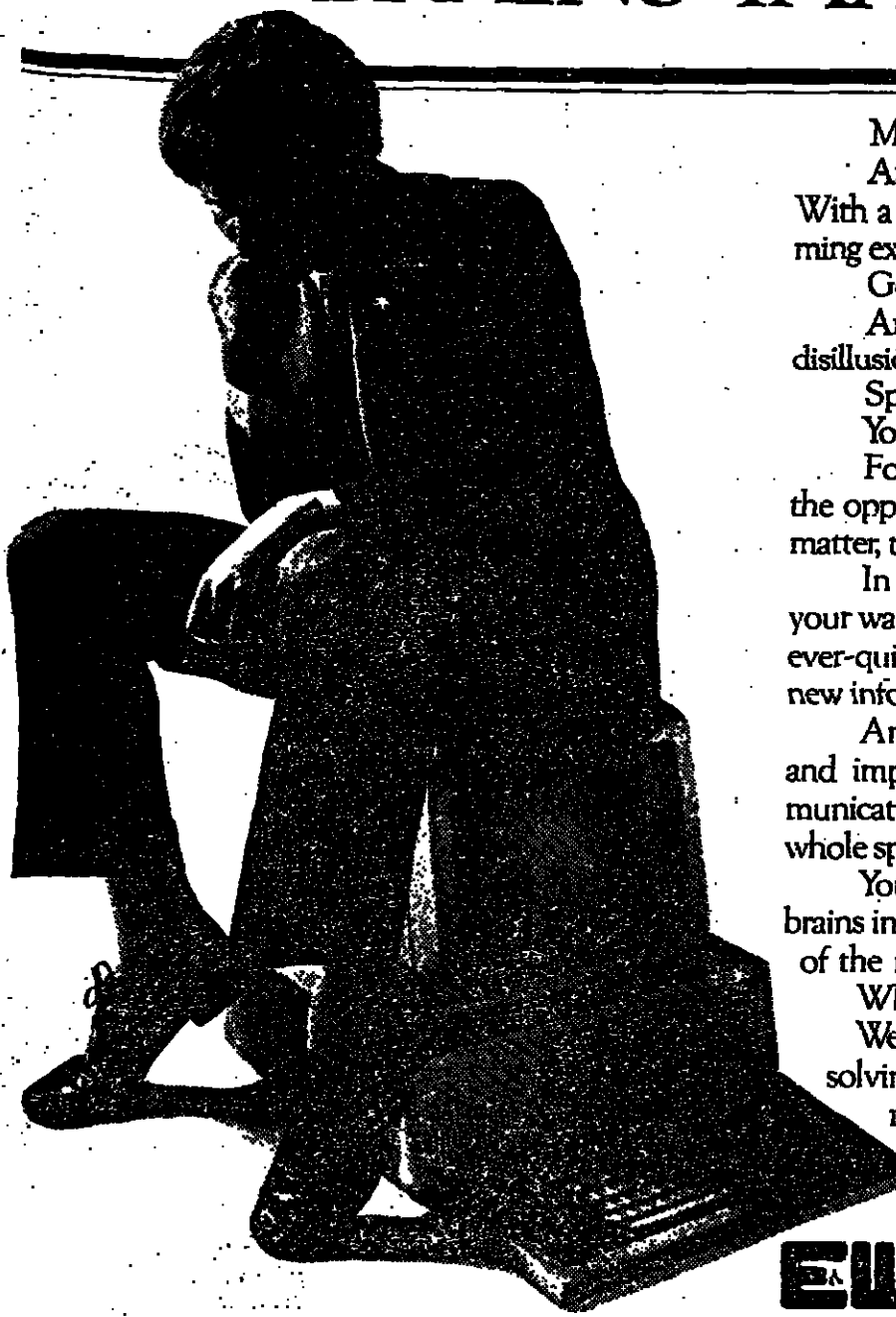
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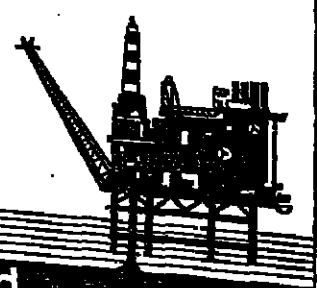
Marathon Oil, operator of the Brae field in the North Sea, is a major international oil and gas corporation and is continuing to grow throughout the UK. As a result of this expansion we are now seeking graduates, ideally with some work experience, to join our small audit group based in London.

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You can also expect to spend around 30% of your time away from the office, travelling mainly within the UK. Therefore, flexibility and initiative are vital qualities.

In return, you will receive a competitive salary and generous benefits package, as well as any extra training you may require. The audit group is considered an important development area for other functions and offers an ideal opportunity to build a progressive career within the company.

Please telephone for an application form and further details or write enclosing a full CV to Melvyn Northfield, Marathon International Petroleum (GB) Limited, 174 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5AT. Tel: 01-486 0922.



Setting the pace in the oil world.

GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS

THE GUARDIAN Thursday June 27 1985 19

Graduating in '85? (or seeking an early change in career direction?) Managing by '87?

If you've set your sights beyond getting a good degree to establishing a promising career... if you possess the talent, drive and ambition to be a manager in around two years... then joining the Mars Graduate Training Scheme has to be one of the best moves you could make.

Top-quality products and an aggressive approach to marketing have made us a leading manufacturer in the UK's biggest packaged-goods market - confectionery. To ensure our continued success, it's our policy to recruit only the highest-calibre people with obvious management potential.

We currently have a number of opportunities for graduates who seek a commercially-orientated career and who have the ability to influence the future development of our business in a very competitive marketplace.

During a comprehensive training programme of around 2 years you will be given:

- early responsibility
- broad business experience - including time spent in different divisions of the company
- a formal programme of management skills training

In short, we're looking for the managers of tomorrow. This means that, on successful completion of your training, you'll immediately be appointed to your first management role.

Starting remuneration will be in excess of £8,750 with regular 6-monthly merit awards to follow. A generous range of non-contributory benefits (including relocation assistance if appropriate) completes the package.

We want to hear from you if you're graduating now (or are looking for a change in direction after 12 months in your first job), have a high level of numeracy, and can convince us of your ability to:

- succeed in a challenging and competitive environment
- influence and motivate people effectively
- operate successfully on your own initiative
- take on ever-increasing responsibilities

So if you want to join a top consumer company, write for an application form to: Eoin Kavanagh, Graduate Recruitment Officer, Mars Confectionery, Dundee Road, Slough, Berkshire SL1 4JX.

Mars

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATES

We are Cable and Wireless, the renowned British owned telecommunications group, operating in over 80 countries worldwide. We are currently seeking graduates of exceptional potential who are looking to make a positive contribution to the vital growth area of information systems. The men or women our London based IS Department want will be under 25 and capable of rapid development into Senior Programmers, Systems Analysts, Systems Designers, Team Leaders and Project Managers.

We can offer an imaginative and comprehensive training programme comprising a month's intensive induction, regular internal and external courses and, more importantly, direct involvement in productive work assignments almost immediately, giving you the opportunity to apply the invaluable technical and managerial skills acquired during training. We expect you to maintain the highest levels of achievement - your performance is regularly monitored against agreed objectives and is directly related to your personal, professional career development.

As you can imagine, our rigorous selection programme is designed to identify those with the flair and initiative to understand and achieve those objectives within a demanding, yet highly stimulating environment.

Therefore, whatever your degree discipline, whatever your work experience, the special qualities we seek are excellent leadership and communication skills, enthusiasm and vigorous intellect, and a positive approach to problem solving.

If you feel you would excel in such a challenging environment, then please write in or telephone for further details of the scheme and an application form, to be submitted with a report in your own handwriting, explaining what sort of job you expect to hold five years from now, and why.

Please send the completed application form and report to: The Recruitment Manager, ISG/3, Cable and Wireless plc, Mercury House, Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8BX. Tel: 01-405 4980 (24 hours).

Cable and Wireless
Helps the world communicate

A DEGREE IN ANY DISCIPLINE CAN PUT YOU AMONGST THE TOP COMPUTER PROFESSIONALS

And it will if you're good enough to join the training schemes set up by Rank Xerox to launch our own talent into key business areas.

The Information Systems Groups direct future technology for our operating companies and develop and support software computer systems on a worldwide basis. Here, the problems inherent in the evolution of a company geared to meeting customer demand in all its markets presents a broad range of fast moving challenges.

We need new or recent graduates capable of rapid career development in an organisation that is informally managed and constantly reactive to customer needs. With the best computing and functional training scheme in the country going for you, you'll learn fast over a 9 month highly structured course, then

contribute where there's no bureaucracy to strangle independent thought and new ideas.

The technical courses will instruct you in the use of Honeywell mini computers and IBM mainframes, and systems analysis and design. On the business side we'll build up your company and product knowledge, your commercial awareness, your people management and communications skills. It won't be long before you're meeting your first test of initiative in a real work project - three months at the outside.

In your first appointment - probably as a Programmer or Programmer Analyst you could be working on technical support projects, internal systems for other countries or local operating systems. Initially, you'll be based at our technology centre in Uxbridge and thereafter you may be located at Bushey or our

new international headquarters at Marlow. In addition, there will certainly be considerable travel opportunities.

Salaries start at £7,500 p.a. and within 15 months you would be expected to be earning c.£9,500 p.a., with prospects of future rewards that are amongst the best in our industry.

Naturally we're very selective - so do expect the recruitment process to involve several interviews and an aptitude test.

To put yourself amongst the leaders please write with a full c.v., quoting Ref. G86/L1, to Tim Hunt, Rank Xerox Limited, Middlesex House, 4 Mercer Walk, Uxbridge, UB8 3UD.

RANK XEROX

Graduates— Can you meet our Challenge of Excellence?

Renishaw, from small beginnings, is growing - fast. It has already created over 60 new jobs this year and won its fourth Queen's Award. It is now one of the top 250 Companies in the U.K. And all in just twelve years of existence.

The opportunities we have for good Honours Graduates in Engineering (Mechanical, Electronics, Software) or Mathematics are quite outstanding. Being still small enough in numbers our openings afford high visibility in small teams directly working on hi-tech devices for the control and measurement of industrial processes, or very sophisticated development work in Advanced Manufacturing Systems. We have a total commitment to the achievement of excellence in our products and our people, therefore we seek only the very best.

Finally, we are situated in delightful rural surroundings in the Cotswolds, but it is no backwater - the work environment and the technical facilities are of the finest, and you'll be working with some of the best brains in the business.

If the bright lights beckon Bath, Bristol and Gloucester are all within easy travelling distance.

If you feel you can meet our Challenge of Excellence and are anticipating (or have got) a very good class of Honours Degree, why not drop me a line to tell me about yourself or phone to request an application form.

R.S. Roberts,
Group Personnel Manager,
Renishaw plc,
Gloucester Street,
Wotton-under-Edge,
Gloucestershire GL12 7DN.
Telephone (0453) 842533.

RENISHAW



In search of perfection

TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS MICRO COMPUTERS

London £8,000-£10,000

Touche Ross & Co., Chartered Accountants, provide a wide range of services to industrial, commercial and public organisations. Our professional staff consists of accountants, computer specialists and others. We use many micro computers and now require technical assistants to support our staff in their use.

Duties will include:

- Helping to develop applications using spreadsheet and general purpose software;
- User education concerning hardware and software;
- Investigation of new software tools;
- Providing technical and administrative support;
- Organising and controlling manuals and other documentation;
- Ensuring that the equipment is correctly set up and used.

This position will be attractive to recent or forthcoming graduates who have experience of micro computers and wish to gain more knowledge of their use. Additionally, there are significant and exciting opportunities for career development in this fast-growing firm. Business awareness and knowledge of spreadsheets is essential.

If you are interested, please send details of your qualifications and experience to David Clark, Partner, at the address below, quoting reference G6060.

Touche Ross & Co
The Business Partners

Hill House, 1 Little New Street, London EC4A 3TR
Telephone 01-353 8011

CONRAN ROCHE

GRADUATE PLANNER

Conran Roche specialises in Planning, Economic Development, Architecture and Property Development. A Graduate Planner is sought to fill a new post within the rapidly growing company, serving a wide range of public and private sector clients. The work will be based in our London and Milton Keynes offices. Duties will include:

- technical and administrative support
- research assistance on various urban development projects
- information collection and analysis
- field-work with a range of clients
- drafting technical papers and reports

The successful candidate will probably be a numerate graduate planner with qualifications in social science, geography, business studies or economics. Some post-qualification experience would be an advantage. A driving licence is essential. The position offers good career prospects, with an attractive salary package, and excellent working conditions.

Applicants, with curriculum vitae to:
Bob Pell or David Lock
CONRAN ROCHE
435 Salisbury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes
MK9 2HS (0908) 563330

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Milbank Publications require intelligent, enthusiastic people to sell advertising space in internationally distributed year books. Realistic earnings £15K p.a.

Excellent promotion prospects 20+ and eager to succeed?

Phone today,
Clive Bear on

01-379 3036



GRADUATES

More job opportunities for Graduates will be appearing in:

The Guardian

Next Thursday, July 4th

Copy deadline will be 10.30 a.m.

Tuesday, July 2nd

London: 01-278 2332

Manchester: 061-532 7200

Tele Sales: 01-430 1234

The Guardian

Sussex Christ's Hospital require a GRADUATE TO TEACH CLASSICS

at all levels from September 1985

The appointment, which would suit a newly qualified graduate, would be for one year in the first instance, but there would be a strong possibility of it being made permanent after one year. Accommodation would be available.

In view of the short time available for interview, applicants should apply as soon as possible with full CV and the names and telephone numbers of two referees to: The Head of Classics, Christ's Hospital, Burslem, West Sussex, BN13 7LS (tel: 0483 88676). Further information may be obtained.

GRADUATES

If a very high income, free holidays abroad and most of all a career interests you, telephone Peter Gurney on

01-734 1449.

ENGINEERS-to15k

Process control for automation

As a new venture systems house, we have an immediate requirement for top rate, creative personnel with plc experience. If you enjoy travel, hard work and high rewards, and have programmed Allen Bradley, Texas or similar plcs, preferably for the food industry, you could fit the bill.

Find out more more by sending your c.v. to Paul Tucker at Ivel House, Ichester, Somerset BA22 8JL, tel. 0935 841292, or see us on Stand 2400 at CIMA, Olympia, June 24th-27th.

ariadne systems

Working for our industrial future

EDUCATION GUARDIAN

Appears in The Guardian on Tuesday

Numerate and enjoy working with figures?

Interested in International Agricultural Problems?

... then develop your career with the Milk Marketing Board in our International Economics Department.

Working very much on your own initiative, your main responsibility will be editing the publication "EEG Dairy Facts and Figures" - a prestigious and respected document used widely throughout the Dairy Industry.

The role will involve the assembly, analysis and presentation of a range of material - often presented initially in languages other than English - and requires patience, accuracy and considerable attention to detail. There will be considerable correspondence with dairying and governmental organisations outside the U.K.

Educated to at least 'A' level/degree standard you should have a mature and meticulous approach to work and ideally be able to read another European language. The ability to work to tight deadlines is essential.

MMB

Please write with full career details, including current salary, to Jill Allcock, Personnel Officer, Milk Marketing Board, Thames Ditton, Surrey KT7 9EL. Tel: 01-885 8244.

AIRCALL — PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Air Call is Europe's largest independent telecommunications company operating from 32 regional centres in Britain alone. The Company provides a wide variety of services from medical deputising to computerised message handling. Sustained growth over the last ten years has now resulted in the need for:

4 TRAINEE MANAGERS

seeking careers in a fast moving, high technology but people orientated environment. Candidates should be EITHER school leavers with a minimum of two 'A' levels and five 'O' levels - one of which must be in a "human relations" subject, OR a recent graduate with a good Honours degree or H.N.D. In addition to formal qualifications, candidates should be mobile, highly professional and committed to an entrepreneurial environment.

Starting salary will be on a scale of £8,000-£8,500 p.a. Please write to: Mrs. Bardsley-Gerrig, Air Call plc, 18 Lambeth High Street, LONDON SE1 7JR, or telephone 01-834 9000 for an Application Form.

Closing date for receipt of applications is two weeks from appearance of this advertisement.

HELP KEEP A VERY SPECIAL ICL INSTALLATION UP AND RUNNING

Camden's ICL installation is powerful and sophisticated by any standards.

It's based on a VM/B Superdual 2988 operating under VME with TPMS and DMS. The installation also features a 4M/B 2956 operating under DME, and an ME29 with DMS as its operating software. Equally significant is the fact that our large mainframe supports a network of no less than 300 DRS terminals located in just about every one of our departments, and designed to bring the latest information processing and communications technology into every area of our work.

Our philosophy of "think and act terminals" is placing heavier demands than ever on our hardware, operating and database software, and on our ability to schedule an increasingly complex workload.

Which all makes these two key operations particularly challenging for men and women who want to break new ground with their ICL operations experience.

OPERATIONS MANAGER £15,606-£17,313

You'd be responsible to the Computer Manager for the day to day supervision of the Computer Operating and Technical Support groups. You must be able to demonstrate a proven track record of technical management in a large ICL VM/B computer operations environment running under the VME/B operating system. Ideally, experience should have been gained in operating, systems support and data communications. A minimum of ten years experience, five of which should have been in a senior position within an ICL, are essential.

Quote Ref: IC/344 G

OPERATIONS ANALYST £12,507-£13,491

This is an intermediate level role within the Production Support Group aimed at providing support for and an interface capacity between Computer Operations, Development and User Departments.

You should have substantial experience in a large ICL Mainframe environment, with a minimum of 2 years experience in an Operations Support role. A working knowledge of VME/B and DMS is essential.

Quote Ref: IC/344 G

Additional experience of support of large database systems would be an advantage.

Quote Ref: IC/342 G

COMPUTER OPERATIONS ASSISTANTS £6,486-£10,362

Our requirement is to work a 2 shift system - 08.00-16.00/15.00-23.00 for which a shift premium of 14% will be payable.

You'll need to have a minimum of 2 years operating experience using VME/B, DME and Data Control experience would be an advantage.

Quote Ref: IC/343 G

We are centrally placed close to Kings Cross, St. Pancras and Euston Stations and have pleasant air-conditioned offices. In addition to the salary indicated there is payment for overtime worked above a 35 hour week together with other benefits which include generous holidays, pension scheme, interest free season ticket loans, subsidised staff restaurant, flexible and assistance with personal expenses where appropriate.

Application forms and job descriptions to be returned to: Chief Executive Staffing Unit, Room 317, Town Hall, Euston Road, London, NW1 2RU. Tel: 01-837 9985 (Answerphone). Please quote appropriate reference number. Closing date: 15th July 1985.

Camden Services
It's good to lose!

equal opportunity employer

Applicants are considered on the basis of their suitability for the post, with equal opportunities for women, black ethnic minorities, lesbians and gay men and people with disabilities, and regardless of marital status, age, creed, religion and sexual orientation. All posts are open for job-sharing.

ANALYST/PROGRAMMER

The Design Council promotes the improvement of design in British industry through a variety of activities including advisory services, exhibitions, publishing and retailing.

We need an Analyst/Programmer to work as part of a small team on the development of maintenance of an ambitious range of applications on our IBM System/38. As most software is written 'in-house', this is an ideal opportunity for someone wanting to develop higher skills in an interesting and diverse organisation.

Applicants should have two years' experience of RPG III in a System/38 environment.

We offer a salary of up to £12,600 and excellent benefits including a non-contributory pension scheme.

For further details and an application form please contact:

Mrs. Carol Taylor,
Personnel Officer,
The Design Council,
28 Haymarket,
London SW1Y 4SU.
Telephone 01-839 8000, ext. 37.

An equal opportunities employer.

THE
DESIGN
COUNCIL

Analyst/Programmer

Up to £11,000 + Benefits

At Yorkshire Bank we think we can offer you an exciting future, both in the projects you will be working on - and in the environment you'll be doing it in.

Look at our record; we lead the field in the adoption of hardware and data processing techniques. We lead the clearing Banks in the provision of on-line computer services; we're using Program Generation Techniques; our current installation includes two of the latest Burroughs B4900 central processors, as well as the most up-to-date peripherals and software. This installation supports an intensive Data-Communications network serving branches equipped with Philips P.T.S. counter terminal systems.

We seek people with proven technical competence gained over a number of years in a financial and/or data communications orientated environment.

Burroughs and/or Philips experience would be an advantage but self-motivation and ability are more important.

We look after our employees, providing them with the best in benefits, including non-contributory pension, profit sharing, annual bonus, flexitime, low cost loans and relocation expenses where appropriate, plus extensive social and sports facilities. Our expansion means that we are readily able to realise your full career potential.

If you're concerned about family and social ties, then we don't think any city in the Country offers the motorway access in all directions that Leeds does. House prices (linked with the Bank's low cost mortgage rates) give you the opportunity to afford a place to settle in, rather than just to live in - with all the beauty of the Dales on your doorstep.

For further information or an application form telephone our Systems & Programming Manager quoting C27 on Leeds (0532) 692121 or write to:-

Yorkshire Bank
EVERYBODY'S EVERYDAY BANK

Systems & Programming Manager, Yorkshire Bank PLC,
Computer Centre, 55 Harrogate Road, Leeds LS1 3PX.

TRAINEE BROKER

A vacancy has arisen for a Trainee Broker. The successful applicant will be about 22-25 years old, hard working and presentable. No previous experience necessary, as full training given.

For a confidential interview telephone Andrew Moon on 01-493 7233.

University of St Andrews

Department of Psychology

RESEARCH ASSISTANT 1B

Applications are invited for the above post to work on a project funded by the Wellcome Trust involving the effects of an interest in social learning and related processes. The post is for a full-time position of approximately 1 year duration. The successful candidate will be expected to play the leading role in financial planning and control.

Salary will be on Administrative Grade 3 (£14,135-£17,705 per annum; under review) with starting point dependent upon qualifications and experience. Further particulars available from the Registrar and Secretary (Personnel Office), University of St Andrews, St Andrews, Fife, Scotland, KY16 9SS. Tel: 01793 556111. Closing date: 28 July 1985.

GENERAL

University of Wales
College of Medicine

FINANCE OFFICER

Applications are invited for the above appointment from candidates with either a relevant professional accountancy qualification, a degree in an appropriate subject, or considerable previous financial experience at a high level in an educational institution. The Finance Officer will be a member of the small Senior Administrative team called upon to advise on general policy matters in the College and will be expected to play the leading role in financial planning and control.

Salary will be on Administrative Grade 3 (£14,135-£17,705 per annum; under review) with starting point dependent upon qualifications and experience. Further particulars available from the Registrar and Secretary (Personnel Office), University of Wales College of Medicine, Heath Park, Cardiff, CF6 3TA. Tel: 01222 593333. Closing date: 28 July 1985.

COMPUTER STAFF

University of Exeter

APPLICATIONS PROGRAMMER

Applications are invited for the above post in the Department of Mathematical Statistics and Operational Research to commence as soon as possible. From a UNIX environment and use a network of other computers, a range of languages will be used. Knowledge of a high level structured language would be an advantage. Although training will be given where necessary, staff must have extensive use of various packages and libraries with which the successful candidate would be expected to become familiar. A degree or equivalent is desirable but not essential.

Salary scale £6,600-£10,330 per annum (under review) with placement dependent on qualifications and experience. Further particulars available from the Personnel Office, University of Exeter, Exeter, Devon, EX4 4JL. Tel: 0392 26421. Closing date: 28 July 1985. Equal opportunities employer.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Telephone:
LONDON 01-276 2332
MANCHESTER 061-832 7200

Stanley Tools is one Europe's largest manufacturers of hand tools for the home and workshop and is part of the Stanley Organisation.

As a result of a national promotion within our Marketing Department, we wish to appoint an

Assistant Manager - Forecasting

He/she will be responsible to the Marketing Development Manager and will provide reliable product forecasts for the efficient scheduling of Production.

In addition to preparing medium and long range forecasts, he/she will need to be aware of and advise on, any external factors - economic, political or competitive, which are likely to affect those plans. It is therefore essential that the successful applicant must be able to communicate clearly and concisely at Senior Management level.

Ideally candidates will be maths or economics graduates with two or three years experience in a forecasting role. Some knowledge of computerised information systems would also be useful.

For this position, we offer a competitive salary together with the other benefits associated with a progressive company. Relocation expenses will be paid where appropriate.

Write or telephone for an application form to the Personnel Department, Stanley Tools, Woodside, Sheffield S13 9PD. Telephone 0742 78378.

STANLEY

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL / AVON RUBBER plc

GRADUATE ENGINEERS/ APPLIED SCIENTISTS REQUIRED

BRISTOL UNIVERSITY MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT and AVON RUBBER plc have teamed together to combine both academic and industrial skills and are currently engaged in a joint 3-year engineering project. The project, which has rapidly progressed towards its objectives, is concerned with materials development and the re-design, instrumentation measurement and automatic control of lines for extruded rubber products.

We are looking for TWO PROJECT ENGINEERS, who may have either an degree or equivalent qualification in a relevant engineering discipline, and two APPLIED SCIENTISTS, who may have either a degree or equivalent qualification in a relevant engineering discipline, and who are interested in the field of extruded rubber products.

The second 'vacant' should have a general scientific/engineering background and an interest in polymers or materials engineering, and experimental measurement techniques. These positions will be available from October 1985 and are intended to run for the following two years. Salaries will be within the range £7,500 to £10,500 p.a. depending on age and experience and will be subject to normal incremental rises.

It is anticipated that applicants for these positions will want to do an accelerated route to senior appointments in industry. At the end of their period of project, suitable persons will be offered full employment by Avon Rubber plc. The university and the Avon Rubber factories are geographically close to one another the latter being situated in beautiful landscaped countryside near to Bath.

Applications in the form of a curriculum vitae should be sent, as soon as possible to Dr D. P. Stiles, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Queen's Building, University of Bristol, Bristol BS8 1TL. (Telephone 0272-34151, extension 128, from whom further details can be obtained. Please include the names and addresses of at least two referees with your CV.

London Borough of BRENT *Brent is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Job sharers welcome.*

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES AND COMPUTING

TEMPORARY LECTURERS II (Three posts) (Ref: X29)

Applications are invited from qualified candidates for one year temporary appointments to teach on undergraduate courses in one of the following areas: Computer Education or Commercial Computing. These posts are available from 1st September, 1985.

Salary range: £5,595 - £13,137 p.a. Inclusive of London Allowance.

Further details and application forms available from the Personnel Dept., South Bank Polytechnic, Borough Road, London SE1 0AA. Tel: 01-828 9989, ext. 2355/2361. Closing date: 12th July, 1985.

An Equal Opportunities Employer.

South Bank Polytechnic
Teaching for tomorrow in the heart of London

The Hatfield Polytechnic Deputy Director of Computer Centre

Applications are invited for the above post, which will be available from 1 September, 1985. Significant experience in the use of computers in an educational environment will be an advantage.

Salary on Head of Department Grade V Scale: £16,362-£18,141.

Application forms and further details from the Staffing Office, The Hatfield Polytechnic, P.O. Box 109, Hatfield, Herts, AL10 9AB. Tel: (07072) 79802. Please quote reference: 954.

Closing date for receipt of completed applications: 12 July, 1985.

ALVEY Parallel Simulation Facility (PSF) Project

A three year project is expected to start on the design, construction and evaluation of a facility connected array of Imms Transputers for parallel computation. One such machine will be available at PSF. The following research posts for up to three years starting from 1st September 1985 are required to support PSF's construction.

Senior Research Fellow, preferably post-graduate, to undertake work in the area of parallel processing, programming and topology test development. Starting salary £12,213.

Research Fellow, preferably post-graduate, to undertake work in graphics and data communications support. This experience would be an advantage. Starting salary £9,888.

Local Area Network Modelling
A programme, initially for one year, is required to work on a Local Area Network Modelling (LANSM) package developed at PCL. Further experience is required. Graphics expert. Starting salary £9,888.

All salary scales (under review) include London Allowance. Application forms and further details from the Personnel Office, 309 Regent Street, London W1R 6AL. Tel: 01-222 8212. Closing date: 28 July, 1985.

APPLICATIONS SCIENTISTS Medical Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Philips Medical Systems, Inc. has significant opportunities in MRI Site Management for individuals with a Ph.D. in Medical Physics or Chemistry with NMR and Diagnostic Imaging experience.

Responsibilities will involve developing biomedical instrumentation, performing research for future projects and writing papers in collaboration with university personnel for presentation to professional groups.

Candidates must be diplomatic yet decisive, with the ability to manage highly intelligent and demanding personalities in prime research sites. Relocation to the United States as well as European and domestic travel are required. Salaries will be commensurate with ability and experience.

In order that we may schedule interviews with our principals at The Society of Magnetic Resonance in Medicine Conference, being held August 19 through 23, kindly expedite your complete CV, including salary history, in confidence to: K. B. Wolfe, MRI, Employee Relations Department.

PHILIPS MEDICAL SYSTEMS, INC.
A NORTH AMERICAN PHILIPS COMPANY
710 Bridgeport Avenue, Shelton, CT 06484 (USA)

An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/H/V

GLC Working for London

Computer Training/Data Protection Officer

London Fire Brigade
To assist in the development of the Brigade's proposed and existing computer systems, including provision of user training and to co-ordinate and supervise data protection work.

Experience in the use of computers, irrespective of their equipment or other relevant experience is required together with good communication, analytical and staff management skills, flexibility and initiative.

For an application form, to be returned by 12th July 1985, write to: Personnel Section, London Fire Brigade Headquarters, 12-18 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. Tel: 01-735 4854.

To obtain your form write to the appropriate Staff Section, quoting the ref. and room number on the envelope, to: GLC, The County Hall, London SE1 7PB. Or telephone the number given.

The GLC is an equal opportunities employer. We invite applications from women and men from all sections of the community, irrespective of their ethnic origin, colour, sexual orientation or disability, who have the necessary attributes to do the job.

Job sharing arrangements are open to all applicants.

The Hatfield Polytechnic School of Engineering

Division of Electrical & Electronic Engineering

Experimental Officer Grade S01

Salary Scale £9,669-£10,299

This challenging new post is designed to provide advanced technical support to academic staff in the division, which runs courses at HND, degree and postgraduate level and has a thriving research programme. Candidates should possess a degree or equivalent or have a wide experience in modern electronics. The post might suit a keen young sandwich course graduate seeking an interesting start to his career.

Application forms and further details from the Staffing Office, The Hatfield Polytechnic, P.O. Box 109, Hatfield, Herts, AL10 9AB, or telephone Hatfield 79802. Please quote reference: 950. Closing date: 5 July, 1985. For informal discussions please contact J. Aitken on Hatfield 79151.

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

ACADEMICA Director of Finance £9,669 approx. Plus Pension is a small but expanding publishing company occupying a unique position in the UK.

We need a highly motivated accountant with a degree in accountancy, to take control of the company's financial management. Reporting to the Managing Director, this role will be responsible for the preparation of the company's accounts, the management of the company's cash flow and will be expected to play an important role in the future development and expansion of the company.

Additional responsibilities will include the development of computerised systems and given company investment decisions.

The successful candidate will have a strong motivation to work together with a highly committed staff.

For more details, including a copy of the job description, please write to: Mr. John Taylor, Personnel Officer, 100A Telford Avenue, London NW9 2PX by 10th July. Please send an A4 sized application form.

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

1. An SERC Case Award With Research

The SERC Case Award is a grant of £10,000 to support research in the field of chemical engineering. The successful candidate will be expected to play a leading role in the development and expansion of the company.

2. An SERC Case Award With Research

The SERC Case Award is a grant of £10,000 to support research in the field of chemical engineering. The successful candidate will be expected to play a leading role in the development and expansion of the company.

3. SERC Case Award

The SERC Case Award is a grant of £10,000 to support research in the field of chemical engineering. The successful candidate will be expected to play a leading role in the development and expansion of the company.

These positions are good for research in the field of chemical engineering. The successful candidate will be expected to play a leading role in the development and expansion of the company.

For more details, including a copy of the job description, please write to: Mr. John Taylor, Personnel Officer, 100A Telford Avenue, London NW9 2PX by 10th July. Please send an A4 sized application form.

The University of Manchester POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH POST

Applications are invited for this post, tenable in the Department of Medicine at Hope Hospital, Salford (Head of Department Professor L. A. Turnbull).

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BRITISH pensioners abroad are being robbed. Having chosen to live in the sun in some of the countries which used to form the old British Empire, they find themselves trying to eke out pensions which haven't changed since the day they stopped working, have not kept pace with inflation.

In Australia, some 85,000 British pensioners every November count the cost of leaving these shores. It is then pensions are increased at home, but the people in Australia never get the full amount.

At least, they are better off than the 41,000 pensioners who have emigrated to Canada, often to join children. They get no increase at all. In fact, if they left Britain 15 years ago they are still getting a single pension of £5 a week, while those who joined them ten years ago will be managing on £11.60 a week, compared with the current rate in Britain of £35.80.

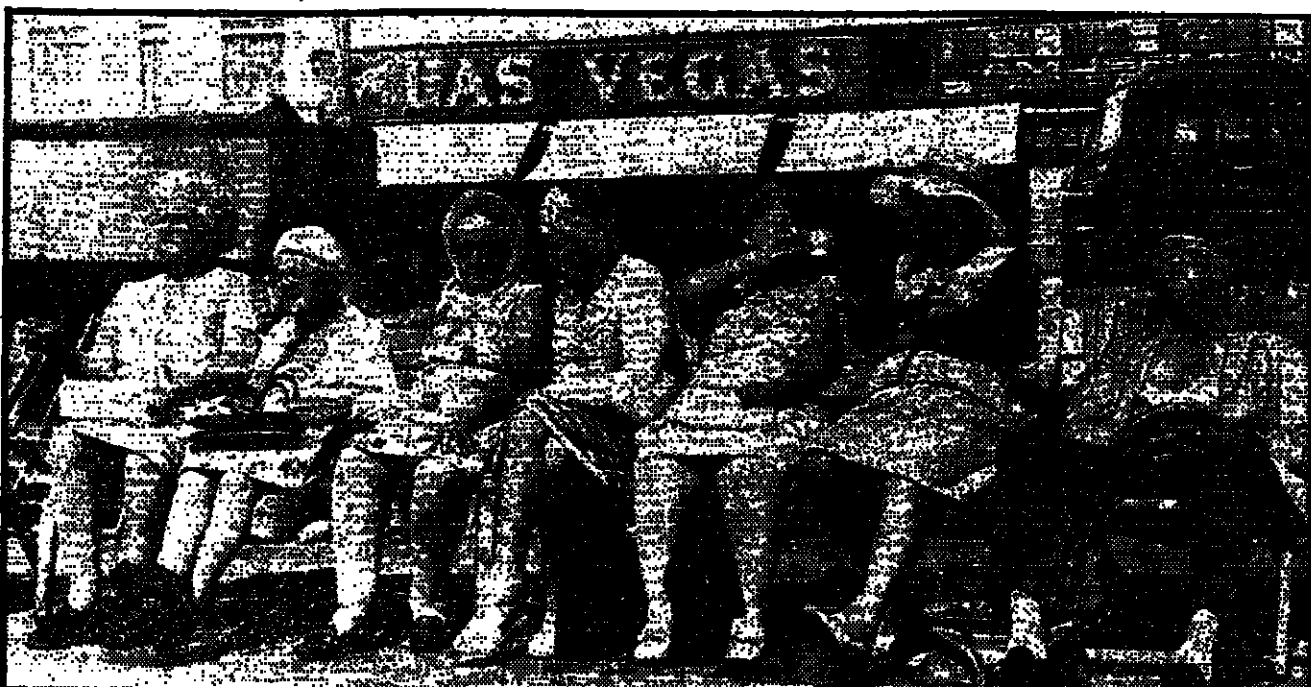
It's the same for the 21,000 in New Zealand and the 15,000 in South Africa. The only way they can get an increase in the pension they paid for all their working life through national insurance contributions is to return to Britain.

But the 9,000 pensioners enjoying the Spanish sun, the 7,000 in West Germany, 6,000 in Italy, 5,000 in Jersey and 4,000 in Guernsey all receive a pension which steadily increases because these countries have a reciprocal social security agreement with the British government.

There doesn't seem to be any logic as to which countries have an agreement, which makes retiring to the sun a little tricky.

The carefree beach life in the Bahamas will cost more dearly than that in Bermuda or Jamaica because the last two have an agreement to index link pensions, just as they are at home.

The United States of Amer-



Keeping sunny side up — picture by Kenneth Saunders

Frozen out of a place in the sun

Lindsay Cook on the need to think twice about retiring abroad

ica severed its links with Britain in an acrimonious way, but British pensioners, who currently number 28,000, get a better deal than those over the border in Canada, which is part of the Commonwealth. They get the full increases in their pensions.

And a new convention with America, which comes into effect in 1988, will allow British people who work in the United States to count any contributions to the social security system there towards a pension that they will later draw in Britain, and vice versa. There's a limit of five years contributions which can be transferred in this way.

The Philippines signed a convention in February, which will allow pensioners to get increases after it comes into force later in the year.

But there's little chance of deals being done to give the full increases to those living in the countries to which most Britons choose to emigrate because it would cost too much and the emphasis is on reducing the social security budget.

The countries of the European Community pay pensioners the full increases, as do Spain, Yugoslavia, Switzerland, Gibraltar, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Mauritius,

Turkey, Portugal, Israel, Malta, Jersey, Guernsey, and Sark.

If you are planning to retire abroad, you should tell the social security office in plenty of time and you will then be informed how the pension will be paid.

It may be sent directly to your address abroad every four or 13 weeks, or to a bank or savings account in the United Kingdom, or paid to a person you have nominated as your agent in the United Kingdom.

The Department of Health and Social Security leaflet N138 gives details of social security benefits outside the

European Community and is a good starting point because it lists which countries have a reciprocal agreement to pay the full pension and which do not.

There are also leaflets available from the DHSS Overseas Branch, Newcastle upon Tyne NE98 1YX, which give precise information about the social security arrangements for countries which have special agreements.

Britain is unique in offering supplementary benefit so there's no question of pensioners, who are eligible for extra help here getting it if they leave.

Company pension schemes pay out any increases where you may roam and whatever the inflation rate. While the inflation rate in Britain may help in the decision as to what the annual increase should be for former employees there would be no cut for those in Switzerland, where inflation is low or Brazil where it is very high, said a spokesman for the Company Pensions Information Centre.

But pensioners may find that they get less cash to spend than expected if they choose a destination which has a strong currency which makes the exchange rates unfavourable to sterling.

As pensioners get older and less fit many choose to return to Britain to get treatment under the National Health Service. But it is not only the treatment that is important. They may want to see a relative for the last time but not have the money to pay the fares.

An insurance scheme for those emigrating to Australia and New Zealand, leaving their families 12,000 miles behind, is operated by Patrick Leigh as the Emergency Travel Insurance Scheme. Policies are taken out naming the emigrants and the selected relatives they would want to see in the case of a bad accident or one of them being seriously ill.

In such an emergency the policy pays the air fares so that whether parents or children are seriously ill they can be visited.

The premiums start at £30, with one adult insured in Britain or Australia and New Zealand, but the premiums are higher if one or more of the people named on the policy is 70 to 75.

The scheme is underwritten by the Navigators and General Insurance Company (Eagle Star) and the operators can be contacted at 20 Lime Street, London EC3M 7HN.

Unsafe as empty houses

When it comes to house insurance, expatriates can be on tricky ground. Sara Webb points out some of the pitfalls

AS Ambrose Bierce pointed out in *The Devil's Dictionary*, insurance is an ingenious game of chance in which the player is permitted to enjoy the comfortable conviction that he is beating the man who keeps the table.

The problems arise if the player is hoping to leave his house unoccupied and insure the building and contents while he's out of the country for several months at a stretch, because he may well find he has little chance of joining the game at all.

Anyone planning to move abroad and leave a property unoccupied must notify the insurer of this change in circumstances and check the existing policy carefully.

Insurance companies are marginally more sympathetic towards their existing customers, but there is a tendency either to withdraw certain clauses in the normal policy or to bump up the premiums — in some cases by 200 per cent. New customers will probably be greeted without enthusiasm. After all, from the insurer's point of view, an empty property is an unattractive risk — unfit windows and weed-ridden gardens beckon to burglars and squatters, and damage from flooding or storms may well take longer to detect, in which case the extent of the damage is likely to be greater.

The first item to check is whether the insurance for an unoccupied property covers all such normal risks as fire, flooding, malicious and accidental damage, as well as paying architects and surveyors' fees and the cost of alternative accommodation if the owner is left stranded upon return.

General Accident, for example, charges the same premium for occupied and unoccupied houses, but in the latter case, the policy excludes: breakage of fixed glass, double glazing, sanitary fixtures, and destruction, or damage by theft or malice.

Even so, premiums can be considerably higher for the contents of unoccupied properties, though premiums vary according to area.

When the house is rented out during the owner's absence, contents cover does not include theft by the tenant — there must be signs of forced entry.

leakage of oil; bursting, leaking, or overflow of water unless the water system is turned off.

Other companies keep the premium the same but make the owner pay the first £25 of 30 of the bills for damage if the house is left unoccupied. Insurance say that if the property of an existing customer is left empty for any length of time, the cover is reduced to fire only, and depending on the circumstances, they would charge an additional rate.

Insurance brokers Alexander and Alexander Ltd of Woking, Surrey, provide a Homesafe policy for expatriates. This is an all-risks policy in which the building rate is 0.15 per cent of the rebuilding cost, with £50 excess if the unoccupied period is less than 60 days. Thereafter, the excess jumps to £500, although the company offers lower rates for larger excess amounts. For an additional £25.50, the policy includes a Home Owners' Legal Protection Scheme which will cover all the legal expenses if equalised (or tenants) refuse to move out.

Most companies stipulate that unoccupied properties are visited and checked weekly by a reliable friend or letting agent, that the water system is completely drained (to avoid the havoc witnessed in parts of the British Isles earlier this year), and that electricity and gas are turned off at the mains. Provided these precautions are met, the Prudential charges the same for occupied and unoccupied properties and does not withdraw any clauses from the policy.

In some cases, the building itself is covered by a building society block policy, so the owner may only need a separate contents policy.

It is assumed that jewellery, paintings, furs, silver, clocks and other valuables will either be locked away in a safe or will accompany the house owner abroad.

Even so, premiums can be considerably higher for the contents of unoccupied properties, though premiums vary according to area.

When the house is rented out during the owner's absence, contents cover does not include theft by the tenant — there must be signs of forced entry.

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Weekend Money is edited by Margaret Dibben

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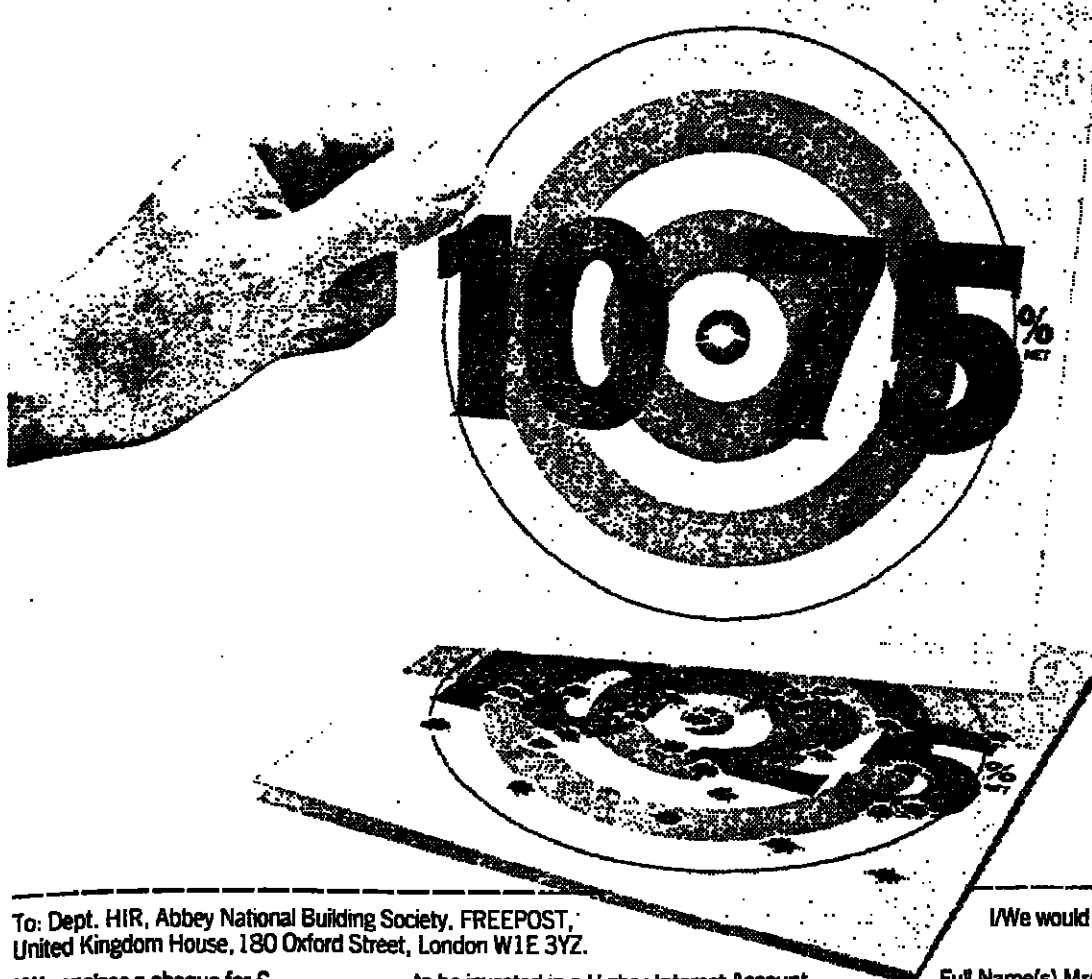
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مكتبة الأمل



Smoke gets in your eyes — Cher, right, in *Mask* and, left, junior punk in *Suburbia*

Derek Malcolm reviews Peter Bogdanovich's *Mask*, *Suburbia*, *Restless Natives*, and *Mrs Soffel*

On the side of the Angels

TUGGING very discreetly at the heartstrings as if half ashamed of its appeal to the emotions, Peter Bogdanovich's *Mask* (Empire, PG) arrives in London from America and Cannes with the advance reputation of being hard done by. Cut by its producers, Bruce Springsteen score with Bob Seger and others, it still remains Bogdanovich's best piece of work for some time.

It is based on Anna Hamilton Phelan's true story of the Rocky Dennis, the American boy from a biker's family who became a latterday Elephant Man because of a disfiguring condition called Craniodiaphyseal dysplasia but whose saintliness moved all who met him.

What a recipe for Hollywood crocodile tears! Yet the film, though occasionally falling prey to the worst kind of hard-nosed sentimentality — watch the courtship between the young man and his beautiful, blind girlfriend, if you want an example of that — generally avoids too much tear-jerking with a plain, straight approach that lets you weep without undue encouragement.

No praise, for instance, could be too high for Eric Stoltz as Rocky, whose simple dignity and determined underplaying are surely deserved as much reward as Cannes as Cher got as his drink-and-drug-soaked rock 'n' roll mother. This, too, is a considerable performance, very in the best sense of the word. No one now could possibly deny her ability as an actress.

Sam Elliott is good, too, as her long-suffering but persistent biker lover, but one does

question Bogdanovich's apparent fondness for the nice, caddy-like Angels who surround the family with such affection. It looks a little like wishful-thinking to me. Either that or something's been left out of the real story.

Still, one judges the film as much by what it could have been as by what it is. And that way it gains a lot. It is often genuinely moving, and seldom lets its grip loosen. My favourite film of the week, however, is Penelope Spheeris's *Suburbia* (GFA Cinema, Screen on the Hill, 18) in which a band of LA youths calling themselves TR

The *Rejected* — are horror against a worried police force, pigs in the middle of a confrontation between them and the suburbanites who first fear and then hate them.

Spheeris's film is cast in the mould of a Roger Corman epic, trying to have it both ways (sex 'n' violence plus horror) and not entirely surprisingly was picked up by the company for distribution. But it consistently seems to deliver a little more than one might expect, and still has a liveliness about it that signals an outstanding talent.

Basically, the film is not much more than a kind of cartoon, with its punky teenagers contrasted for effect with cameos of blue-collared, horror-representing American suburban life. But what it looks like and what it says are two different things, which I happen to think complement each other to some effect.

The melodrama is actually a morality play, subverting the usual expectations of the genre and pushing out towards some sort of proper

feeling. *Suburbia* may be an exploitation movie but it never exploits its characters in an unthinking way, and remains memorable as a first feature because of it.

Restless Natives (Warner West End etc, PG) is about two Scots, a 'hard-wells' who become famous as latterday Rob Roys by holding up coachloads of tourists instead of stagecoaches. The tourists, on the other hand, has got round, begin to like the experience rather, which makes it difficult for the police and eventually impossible for the Scottish Office. The boys become tourist attractions in themselves.

Do you smell Bill Forsyth in all this? If you do, you'd be right and wrong. Forsyth, in fact, has nothing to do with the film, except for the fact that it would never have been made without his example, and the bows to him are many.

It was made by two Americans, — producer Rick Stevenson and director Michael Hoffman, whose privileged, shot at Oxford University for the Oxford Film Foundation, appeared a couple of years ago, and the screenplay by Ninian Dunnnett won a sponsored competition last year.

Comedy, however, is not

easy and perhaps a sharper, harder approach (which one would expect like Forsyth himself at times) would have destroyed the charm. As it is, there's some good playing from Vincent D'Onofrio and Joe Mantegna as the two energetic loofers, Robert Urquhart as the chief policeman and Ned Beatty as a vacationing CIA agent. Not exactly high-tech, but some low cunning.

I don't quite know what has gone wrong with Gillian Armstrong's first American picture, *Mrs Soffel* (Piazza, PG), but it seems a bit dead to me and curiously uninvolved.

Yet there's a very good story to it, being the romantic tale of a prison warden's wife who, instead of dispensing Bibles and good cheer to the depressed killer on Death Row, gives him her passion and, and engineers an escape for both.

Based on a true case, which raised a furore in turn of the century Pittsburgh, the film pairs Diane Keaton and Mel Gibson, which should be better value than it is. Somehow, however, nothing catches fire and Russell Boyd's darkened cinematography, though splendid in itself, seems to obfuscate matters still further.

It seems a long time ago, since Armstrong made the attractive *My Brilliant Career* in Australia, — and in between came the disappointing *Star 80*. Even so, it's still clear that there's a lot of talent in her, but that it isn't tapped here. Perhaps, though, Keaton and Gibson just don't make the right pair. Matthew Modine, Alan Parker's *Birdy*, is notable as Gibson's cellmate and accomplice.



BRIEFING

Best films

Witness (West End and release); Peter Weir's thriller-cum-pastoral, with Harrison Ford's tough detective falling for pretty ranch girl. Sharp mix of art and commerce. Our Story (Lumiere): Eccentric Bertrand Elie opus, with Alain Delon as drunk who falls for Nathalie Baye's unconventional bourgeois woman and stays on as unwanted houseguest. Birdy (Odeon, Haymarket): Alan Parker's Cannes Jury prizewinner, taken from the William Wharton novel about the backstreet boy who wants to fly. Fine performances from Matthew Modine and Nicholas Cage. The Breakfast Club (West End and release): The rowdy, modern American teenagers, as a posse of them sit through school punishment and discover what is what. Lively and well acted. The Hunt of Harvey Milk (Academy): Excellent documentary on the gay councillor murdered in San Francisco, but not before helping minorities of all kinds.

Best on TV

Giro City (Tonight, CA, 9.30): Karl Franz's brave stab at a film lambasting television, with Glenda Jackson, Jon Finch. Union City (Friday, CA, 11.50): Mark Reicher's 1979 punkish film noir, based on a Woolrich pulp thriller with singer Debbie Harry and Dennis Lipcomb as bleakly destructive marriage partners. The Wrong Box (Saturday, BBC2, 9.0): 1966 Bryan Forbes period comedy, with Richardson, Sellers and Wilford Brimley. The Royal Hunt Of The Sun (Sunday, BBC2, 10.20): Taken from Peter Shaffer's successful theatrical epic, with Christopher Plummer playing the Inca king according to Pauline Kael, "like a mad queen." Robert Shaw is Pizarro, and Irving Lerner directed. The Angry Silence (Sunday, CA, 10.10): Slightly dated, Guy Green drama with Richard Attenborough as blackie in union dispute. The Chronicle Of Anna Magdalena Bach (Wednesday, CA, 9.0): Jean-Claude Stravinsky's most famous film, with Bach's music as a commentary on the family's life-style. Hypnotic if minimalist.

Special interest

Outside London, there's still time to see the Arts Cinema Cambridge, double bill of Cocteau's *La Belle et la Bête* and Renoir's *Partie de Campagne* (both masterpieces). But it's now either today or tomorrow, at Newcas's Riverside Cinema, the Coen Brothers' entertaining thriller *Blood Simple* shows next week, with two Forsyth films, Gregory's *Girl and Comfort and Joy*, in the smaller cinema. Bradford's Film Theatre shows Rod's rousing *Carmen* next week as the main attraction, with *Guys and Dolls* (the original version) on Tuesday and Wednesday. Lino Brocka's *Bayan Ko* My Own Country shows until the end of the week at the Arncliffe. The film won the BFI Award this year ex quo with the British Terence Davies Trilogy.

Derek Malcolm

Tim Palleine on films by emigre directors at the NFT

Hans across the sea

CINEMA was rather readily termed an international language in early writing on it. What has perhaps been less widely recognised is how much it is a field of international practice. There are plenty of current examples: Australian filmmakers drawn to Hollywood, or in a different way the gravitational pull to France and Germany and of Tarkovsky to Italy and Sweden.

A season at the National Film Theatre, running through July and August, hits on the rewarding notion of assembling a range of non-German work by directors who were formed in the flowering of the late silent and early sound era in Germany.

The German tradition can be said to encompass heightened instincts for architectural design, for expressive lighting, and less definably for cinematic syntax. Where the first two of these qualities carry a high visibility, the latter is in a sense invisible. Lubitsch is probably the key name here. The Hollywood film that represents him, the costume comedy *Heaven Can Wait*, is intriguing in that, while the sensibility is in a way European, the fabric remains strongly American.

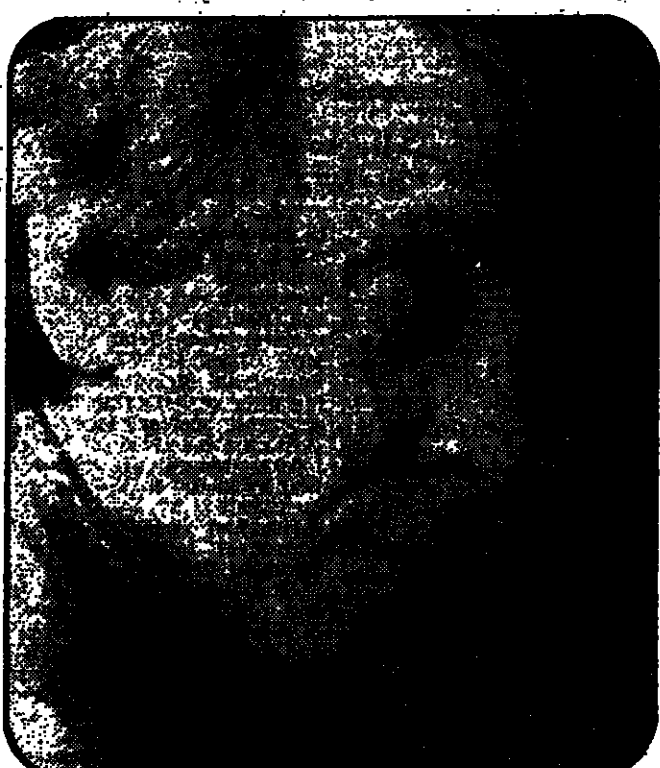
The Germanic influence was probably most evident in the film noir as represented by the gothically elaborate *The Spiral Staircase*. Curtis Bernhardt's *The High Wall*, a beautifully nightmarish thriller which deserves to be better known.

Bernhardt is also represented by a splendid "woman's picture," *A Stolen Life*, and a lesser known example of the same genre is Joe May's *Confession*. The programme variously encompasses the whipped cream of Henry Koster's *Deanna* Durbin vehicle *First Love* and the stark-and-drag of John Brahm's *The Undying Monster* (a nonsensical horror tale treated with enormous aplomb).

The season also reminds us, however, of the contributions of German emigre directors elsewhere. It includes, for instance, *Return of the Scarlet Pimpernel*, a stylish historical romp directed by Hanns Schwarz. It takes in, too, French work by Siodmak (*Pieces*) and Bernhardt (*The Little Revue*, *Carrousel*). Another French rarity is *Dans les Rues*, directed in 1933 by the now virtually forgotten Victor Trivas. He is an interesting case in point since he began in Germany as art director to Faust, and then turned to directing, and subsequently to the US, where he became a screenwriter. In that capacity he turns up elsewhere in the season on the credits of Otto Preminger's *Where the Side Walk Ends*. Eventually, like several other emigres (*Lang*, *Diebolt*), he resumed working in Germany. Oddly enough, he proved to have been born in Russia.

Rotterdammerung

Peter Greenaway talks about his new film, *ZOO*, to James Park



Going Dutch — Peter Greenaway at work

A RED-headed actress screams from a car parked halfway up a lamp-post on a street in Rotterdam. It could be the climax of a conventional film car chase until you notice the symbolic details. The car is a Ford Mercury. A swan and her smashed eggs have been laid across the screaming, begot. And the background is illuminated by enormous incandescent letters spelling ZOO.

The film, *A Zed And Two Noughts*, which recently finished shooting is only the second feature from writer-director Peter Greenaway. It promises to be a visual feast which will do for Rotterdam what *The Draughtsman's Contract* did for the Seventeenth Century English landscape. Greenaway has not been inactive in the three years since *Contract* opened in triumph at the Venice Film Festival. There have been documentaries on modern American composers and the rooms that people live in, as well as the beginning of a collaboration with painter Tom Phillips on a video version of Dante's *Inferno*. But Greenaway has throughout been impatient to make more

features. His word-processor is reportedly bursting with new scripts.

In the interim, various titles were touted as the "next Greenaway." Channel Four faithfully remained committed to whichever was currently top of the pack, but finding the rest of the budget was more problematic. "We sent this script to everyone you might think of," remarks ZOO executive producer Peter Sainsbury, "but there really was no interest."

Sainsbury, who also produced *The Draughtsman's Contract*, admits that reading a Greenaway script can be an unnerving experience for a potential financier. Also, the more bizarre sequences in *A Zed And Two Noughts* — two men leap into a cage with a restless tiger, a rampaging rhinoceros overruns cars on its way down the road — did not promise an easy shoot.

Greenaway wrote ZOO after visits to Rotterdam and Berlin: He was in both cities for film festivals but also found time to visit the local zoos. Both are old-fashioned establishments "where you still have a poor lion walking up and down in a cage,

according to Greenaway. Numerous questions occurred about the relationship between men and animals.

As with *Contract*, the story involves a sudden death. But the film is a why-did-it rather than a whodunnit. A car-crash caused by a low-flying swan leaves two brothers widowed. They are zoo scientists who attempt to explain their loss and appease their grief by researching evolution, the behaviour of trapped animals and the process of human decay. Alba, a third woman involved in the crash, distracts them from their investigations.

"The idea of the film," Greenaway explains, "is again to make a piece of entertainment which can also be a vehicle with which to jockey around ideas."

The project began to appear possible when it was decided to make it as a European-based film. Rotterdam Zoo was suitable and available. And Dutch producer Kees Kasander claimed the film could be brought in for \$250,000 if it was made with a largely non-British crew. There are no union agreements in Holland.

The performers were a mixed bunch. French-speaking actress Andrea Ferreol has to spend many hours practising her English intonation for the part of Alba. The brothers Eric and Brian Deacon agonised harder than anyone else on the set about the meaning of the script and their roles. Enlisted as "zooburgers" were cockney comic Jim Davidson, surrealist Ken Campbell and various actors from England and Holland.

There are plans to have "A Zed And Two Noughts" ready for this autumn's Venice Festival. Whether or not the film makes it, Peter Greenaway already has more than one eye on his next feature. There's a spring shoot pencilled in for "The Belly Of An Architect," which is set among the ancient monuments of Rome. Another script under discussion is located in Antwerp railway station.

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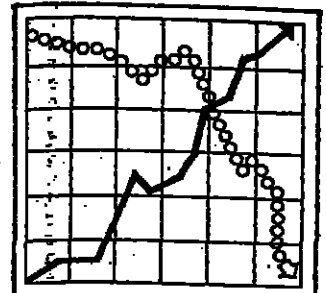
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FINANCIAL GUARDIAN

Bubbles and bandwagons keep those rates floating



ECONOMICS
Christopher Huhne

THE SORRY extent to which international cooperation has deteriorated is truly a wonder to behold. Britain is still the fifth largest economy in the world, with a national income exceeding that of the entire continent of Africa. Yet our Chancellor appears so unconcerned with the state of the world economy that he could not be bothered to make a trip to Tokyo last weekend.

As a result, there was no British minister present at the finance ministers' meeting of the Group of Ten leading industrial countries. Mr Nigel Lawson preferred to stay at home to blame the Bank of England for mishandling the Johnson Matthey bank collapse instead, a pretty shabby public relations exercise given his ultimate responsibility.

His decision exactly parallels the fashionable international obsession with "getting it right at home, and leaving the rest" in the Chancellor's own terms. It was a triumph of his valuable time, for his hatchet men had helped to do a thorough job beforehand.

The report on floating exchange rates which was commissioned, on French insistence, at the 1983 Williamson summit proved to be a mouse. Not a single constructive proposal for imposing some order on the anarchy of the foreign exchange markets survived.

This is a serious matter.

The foreign exchange markets, with their increasing penchant for valuing currencies sharply out of line with sensible economic rates, do not merely reflect domestic policies and their ineptitudes. They are capable of developing a speculative "bubble and bandwagon" momentum of their own which can impose grave costs.

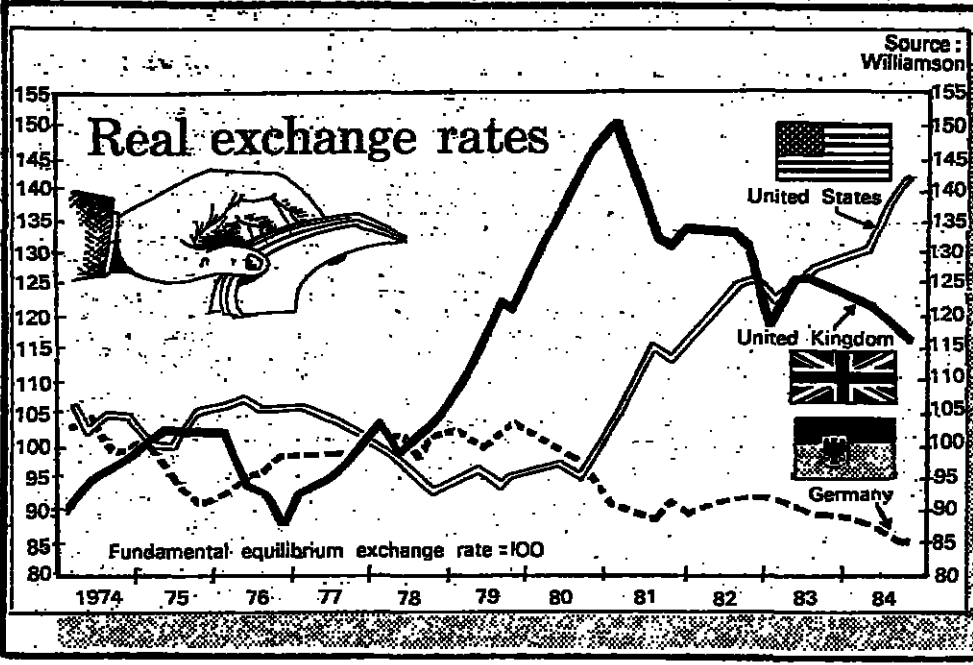
Rem one and close to home, the lunacy of the overvaluation of the pound in 1980 and 1981 has meant that our current account balance — broadly the balance of trade in goods and services — actually deteriorated between 1978 and 1984 despite an enormous increase in North Sea oil exports and a thoroughly depressed economy which would normally have held down imports.

As a result, any prolonged attempt to expand the economy at rates faster than the rest of the world would, without a dramatic improvement in our trading performance, inevitably lead to unsustainable current account deficits. This would in turn imply a renewed deflation or an inflationary collapse in the value of the pound.

Dr John Williamson's updating of his excellent pamphlet on the exchange rate system, provides a sharp rejoinder to the official complacency of Tokyo. He explains how to measure when a currency is over or under valued; why it happens; the costs to the world economy when it does; and how to stop it through a system of "target zones".

First, measurement. This is an exercise not very different to the one which used to be conducted by the International Monetary Fund in the days from 1948 to 1971 when the world operated a fixed but not quite adjustable enough exchange rate system.

The graph shows Dr Williamson's calculations of how each of the major currencies has moved in real terms — ie, allowing for its domestic inflation rate compared to the rest of the world. When inflation is faster, say, in Britain, the pound has to fall by the



same amount to keep the real exchange rate constant. So much is standard, except that most indices of real exchange rates take an arbitrary base period, when the world economy was probably not in proper balance. So Dr Williamson instead constructs a base which shows the exchange rates which would have generated balance in 1978-7. These are the rates at which each economy would have been internally balanced (ie, no mass unemployment) while its current account surplus or deficit was compatible with long-term capital flows.

Clearly, these calculations involve heroic assumptions. But beggars cannot be choosers: they are the best available. And they show that at the end of last year the exchange rate of the pound, for example, should have been \$152, Fr99, Dm31 and 301yen. The pound was slightly undervalued against the dollar, but overvalued against everyone else and by some 17 per cent on average. (Given that sterling is now trading about 64 per cent higher than it was then, thanks to the Chancellor's hike in interest rates, this slightly understates the true overvaluation now).

The theory of floating exchange rates suggests that speculators will never allow currencies to get out of line, because they will buy and sell to stabilise the rate. The reality, though, is that both day-to-day volatility and serious misalignments (most notably of the Swiss franc, pound and now the dollar) have grown worse over the last decade.

One reason for this is the

bad neighbourliness of much of national policy, but speculators themselves can also put momentum behind an artificial trend. If financial markets see a price steadily rising they buy and it takes some shock to reverse the trend.

In other words, privately held stocks of anything, whether currencies or oil — are more likely to be destabilising than stabilising because speculators want to bet with the trend not against it.

The notion that anyone save governments has the financial resources to take the long view is simply fallacious. If someone thinks they will have to pay more for a dollar later than now, even if the dollar will be lower in a year's time, he will buy and buy.

There are also real world factors which can feed this speculative bubble. Markets may for example react to a country's trade balance. But a depreciating currency, which will in the long run improve the trade balance by making exports more competitive, will in the short run make it deteriorate. This is the so-called J-curve: because quantities of exports and imports react to a change in the exchange rate only with a time-lag, a devaluation in the short-term has the effect of increasing the cost of imports and worsening the trade balance (measured in domestic currency).

The failure of the foreign exchange markets to deliver beneficial economic exchange rates means that world output, investment, and employ-

ment is almost certainly lower than it would otherwise be.

It also leads to ratchet effects on inflation because devaluations increase prices and hence wages more quickly than revaluations decrease them, due to sticky labour markets. And protectionism is mounting. The price of free foreign exchange markets is less free goods and services markets.

One useful response is the European Monetary System. A more ambitious attempt to restrict the swings in the three major currencies — yen, dollar and Deutsche mark — would certainly require less ambitious limits to movements at first. But some agreed limit there should surely be. Much could be accomplished by collective intervention, as was shown earlier this year with the dollar. Though the gross flows into and out of currencies are enormous, it is the balance between demand and supply which moves the price. And that is much smaller.

In other circumstances, governments would, probably have to weigh their domestic objectives against the desirability of stabilising the foreign exchange rate. But it is a total misnomer to describe any such change in policy to take more account of external effects as a sacrifice or an abnegation of sovereignty.

For better or worse, we are all in this good ship world economy together. We gouge holes in its hull at our collective peril. The freedom to suffer the costs imposed by floating exchange rates is no freedom at all.

Monetarist chickens are coming home to roost

CITY investors raised their eyes to the next economic trough and recoiled this week. The financial gains of recent years obviously owe more to redistribution than to any broad national progress, and public opinion polls showing that two-thirds of the country is unimpressed by the Government's performance, in spite of the strong recent rise in real incomes, cannot be ignored for long.



INVESTMENT
Robin Stoddart

Economic growth is now running at an historically high 31 per cent, but it is only too clear that when coal output has regained the level where it meets demand, there is nothing much left to keep the pot boiling.

Most of the good news about consumer spending, exports, and capital investment is out. There will probably be a gradual slowdown in all of these areas of activity over next year and more. The oil motor has already lost power.

Like it or not, that leaves the public sector, including the factors over which the Government has most control, as the main barometer. Yet spending cuts are all the more a political priority when they have so far largely failed — and when other targets, particularly lower inflation, are being missed.

Bad luck, including poor weather conditions, is limiting the normal seasonal rise in employment, but the way in which all the monetarist dogmas, hopes and failures are coming home to roost at the same time underlines the risk in laying too many eggs in one basket.

Privatisation is the most dramatic, tangible and blatant "thread" in Mrs Thatcher's policy warp. In the long run it may be seen to have made the economy more dynamic. As a means of keeping the public sector borrowing requirement down, or stopping it rising to new records, it is of dubious merit and purely a temporary expedient.

There are some inflationary side-effects in that the cash mostly comes from existing savings. And the worse-off will become relatively poorer, and probably absolutely poorer, not least after the absorbing of the state earnings related pension scheme. Anti-monopoly supervision is alive and kicking as British Telecom has found to its chagrin.

Government intervention in industry does not end with its privatisation. The vital utilities including water, gas and telephones can still be milked through taxation if no longer by enforced price rises. Although the nominal rate of corporation tax has been lowered, the removal of reliefs and allowances means that revenue is higher for several years even if the boom in profits seen over the last three years soon tails off.

Tax cuts generally might seem to be the most lasting of a Tory administration, but the reality is vast differences except for the few at the very top of the incomes tree. No doubt the aim was to slash the lowest rates of tax, but after the abolition of the highest and most penal levies, which only raised quite small revenues anyway, the pace slowed.

Far from creating new jobs, the wealthier sections of the population who were well-established in boardrooms awarded themselves still more as they slashed employment and boosted profit.

If the continuing pay drift began at the top and, with high mortgage rates, now provides the main danger of escalating inflation, the most potent danger, the strong pound, is entirely the Government's pigeon. But it seems that no sooner has the Chancellor hoisted one new pennant to the yardarm than it is blasted away by his own monetarist cannon. Now the last and most sensible target — of a reasonable and stable exchange rate — is being blown up by high interest rates, arising from the need to curb excessive bank lending.

Since the pound is around 5 per cent higher against the German mark and the currencies of other closely-competing countries compared with what it was a year ago, it is more than likely that the share indices have a lot further to fall if sterling does not undergo a downward adjustment for intervening inflation. Last July the main share indices were well over a hundred points or up to a fifth below what they are now. Fortunately, the strength of international stock markets, Germany's in particular, reflects the solid improvement that is taking place in the economies of most industrial countries.

Apart from the building sector, Germany is experiencing a broadly-based and better-than-forecast upturn. The motor industry has regained previous record levels of output and double about electronics and other high technology areas capacity to compete have mostly been stilled. A record trade surplus is on the cards even if the oil price does not fall much further.

Led by its top companies and the main investor, Deutsche Bank, the German share market has risen by over a quarter this year. Unfortunately, Britain no longer has any motor or engineering groups to compare with Volkswagen or Daimler Benz, and although ICI is not dissimilar to the three German chemical giants, they have not been so prominent among recent gainers as they were earlier. GEC bears comparison with Siemens as the electronics industry hurtles to earth.

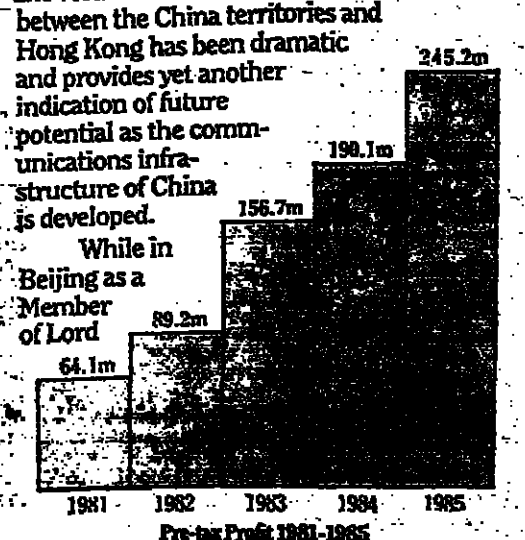
Wall Street remains the most potent influence on world stock markets, just as the United States economy is the prime mover of world trade. The revival in the growth of most areas, if not noticeably in the manufacturing sector overall, has now been confirmed, at least by some leading indicators. That did, however, stop the leap in government bond prices that had taken place in anticipation of still lower interest rates.

British industry and most builders are now clear that lower interest rates, along with a reduction in the sterling exchange rate against most currencies other than the dollar are necessary if the upturn is going to last.

"This is our fourth year since privatisation. I am pleased to announce record profits and turnover for the fourth successive year. Pre-tax profit increased by 29 per cent from £190 million to £245 million and turnover increased by 28% to £862 million.

This year has seen significant Group activity in the implementation of our global strategy. Investment expenditure was £262 million, of which £88 million was in the UK and £23 million in the United States.

The Far East, which now includes Hong Kong Telephone Company, continues to contribute substantial growth to Group revenue and profits. Telecommunication traffic between the mainland of China and Hong Kong is increasing dramatically. Hong Kong is now the principal destination for external calls from the southern provinces of China and from the Shanghai area. Much of the growth has resulted from the continuing number of joint projects which the Group undertakes such as the inauguration of direct dialling between Guangzhou, the provincial capital of Guangdong, on 20 August, 1984. The progress of our Shenda joint venture telephone company in Shenzhen, the largest of China's special economic zones, where direct dialling to and from Hong Kong was introduced on 10 December, 1984, also contributed to the growth. The increase in the volume of telecommunication use between the China territories and Hong Kong has been dramatic and provides yet another indication of future potential as the communications infrastructure of China is developed.



Young's Trade Mission, I signed Letters of Intent with the PT Ministry. The objectives are to co-operate in the telecommunications development of the Yangtze Delta area and to establish a telecommunication centre, probably to be located in Shanghai. During the mission I also signed a joint project agreement with Director Yuan Jiawen of Guangdong Posts and Telecommunication Administrative Bureau (GPTB), to install digital telephone systems in three major cities of the Pearl Delta area. Subsequently another agreement has been reached between GPTB and Cable and Wireless (HK) Limited, which will rapidly extend to another 10 cities in the area the ability to dial directly to Hong Kong.

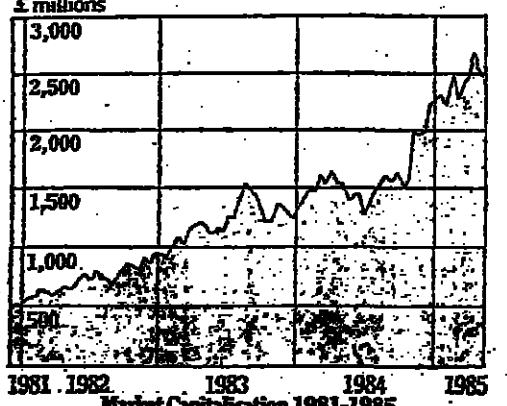
The expansion of telecommunication services in the Pearl Delta will mean that the existing 2700 channel microwave system between Hong Kong, Shenzhen and Guangzhou will be fully utilised by 1988. Cable and Wireless (HK) Limited is already discussing a new optical fibre system with GPTB to handle the extra traffic.

The Pacific Basin has been identified as a major growth area for telecommunication and we are actively seeking out opportunities for strengthening the group presence throughout the Pacific Basin as well as in China. Mercury Communications Limited forms the substance of our development in the UK. It was, therefore, in pursuance of our strategic objective that we grasped the opportunity to establish Mercury as a 100 per

Cable and Wireless PRELIMINARY RESULTS

£m	1985	1984
Turnover	862	673
Profit before taxation	245	190
Attributable profit	142	113
Earnings per share	31.9p	25.1p
Dividend per share	7.8p	6.5p

cent owned Cable and Wireless subsidiary by purchasing 50 per cent of its shares from BP towards the end of 1984. Since then the newly appointed management and board of Mercury have accelerated vigorously the expansion of the network and have been notably successful in completing fibre optic cable links from Manchester through Leeds to Birmingham and from Birmingham through London to Bristol. Earth stations have been established in the London Docklands and Oxfordshire to provide communications via the Atlantic and Indian Ocean satellites to the west and east. Now that it has both terrestrial and satellite facilities to offer, Mercury is attracting increasing numbers of customers. It is also offering increasing numbers of different services, the latest of which is a private line facility with AT&T, the major long-distance and international operator in the USA. This



provides immediate access to a wide variety of AT&T's telecommunication services and the many international customers who use them and we look forward to expanding this agreement to include other services in the future. Mercury has also completed the purchase of the network of pipes under London which were used until 1977 by the London Hydraulic Power Company. Fibre optic cables are now being laid in these pipes. By the end of the year a digital switched service will be available to the city using this new network, thus extending significantly the services Mercury can offer on a competitive and high quality basis.

The largest inter-continental traffic stream is between the UK and the US. The decision of the Federal Communications Commission, with the agreement of the US Secretary of State, to grant the application by Tel-Optik — our US partner — to land two fibre optic cables in the US clears all the regulatory and legal requirements and enables us to proceed in the design and commissioning of the first private transatlantic telecommunication cables for decades. Their use will add a new dimension to the security, reliability, speed and cost of transatlantic communications. They will also provide Mercury with secure transatlantic cables complementing its satellite links. Developments within the US are proceeding to plan. The fibre optic cable facility which the Group leases from Amtrak between Washington and New York has proved very successful and additional

capacity is planned on this route. An agreement has been signed with Lightnet to purchase substantial fibre optic cable capacity between Washington and Chicago, one of the busiest routes in the world. The agreement includes options for the purchase of additional routes as and when needed. Construction of the fibre optic cable system in Texas linking Dallas, Austin, San Antonio and Houston is well under way and contracts for substantial amounts of capacity have already been signed up.

The appointments, to the Court of Directors, of Tom Chelwell as Director, Bermuda and Caribbean, and John Ormsby as Director, Middle East, Indian Ocean and Africa bring representation at Court of all the major geographic regions in which the Group operates. Together with Brian Pemberton, who becomes Chief Operating Officer on 1 July, 1985, they will provide continuity at Court for more than the next decade. Alan Clements becomes a non-executive director on 1 July. We are sure his experience as Finance Director of ICI will assist in the further strengthening of our Group. I wish also to record my appreciation for the contribution made by Alan Wheatley, whose resignation takes effect from 1 July, and wish him success in his new appointments.

In conclusion, I thank my fellow directors and the managers and staff throughout the world for their support and commitment in maintaining and strengthening the pre-eminent position of the Group as the world's leading international operator of telecommunication services. We will continue to grow and to grow profitably."

Eric Sharp
Sir Eric Sharp, CBE
Chairman and Chief Executive
Cable and Wireless
THE WORLD LEADER
IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS
Cable and Wireless plc, Mercury House,
Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8RX.

THE DAY IN POLITICS

Authority tightens smear test guidelines

New guidelines to make sure that women are told of the results of cervical smear tests are to be introduced by the Oxfordshire district health authority.

This follows the case of a woman who died of cancer last year who had not been told the results of her smear test in 1979 had proved positive.

The health authority has decided now that all women who have smear tests will be told the results, whether they are positive or negative. They will also be given record cards with details of test results, while tests will be repeated every five years for sexually active women considered to be at risk.

The Health Minister, Mr Kenneth Clarke, said yesterday that queues of women waiting for cervical smear tests are building up because of fears raised by the Oxford cancer death.

In a Commons written reply to Mr Alf Morris (Lab, Manchester, Wythenshawe), Mr Clarke said he was well aware of "some serious local problems."

Recent backlogs were the result of the "tragic events" in Oxford. "The resultant publicity has caused many more women to seek a test," Mr Clarke said.

"Because most cervical cancers develop slowly, some delay in processing does not detract from the value of having a smear taken. However, delays do cause anxiety to some women and backlogs are demoralising for laboratory staff."

Delays in particular laboratories were a matter for local management, and the minister said he had asked health authorities to pay particular attention to the problem. "However we are keen to discover whether there are any general problems which can be tackled at the national level," he added.

"I am particularly concerned about the need to train adequate numbers of staff, as it is the need for trained staff which is causing most of the delays in increasing the pace of work in laboratories at the moment."

Ex-top brass slates nuclear strategy

DEFENCE

By Colin Brown

BRITAIN'S defence strategy was attacked yesterday in the House of Lords by the former Chief of Defence Staff, Field Marshal Lord Carver, for harbouring "delusions of nuclear grandeur."

He urged the Government to spend \$472 million over 10 years to improve Nato's conventional forces and criticised the Government's planned replacement of Polaris with the Trident nuclear missile system as "superfluous and a waste of money."

Lord Carver, an independent peer who was head of the defence staff from 1973 to 1976, criticised the defence strategy during a debate on the government's 1985 defence white paper.

Lord Carver said: "Our ballistic missile submarines are not an essential element of Nato strategy. Whether they are regarded as an addition to the force or an independent force, they are superfluous and a waste of money."

It was essential, he added, to persuade the American people that it was right and in their own interest to continue to make a vital contribution to Europe's defence by convincing them that European members of Nato were using their money and manpower effectively to maintain and, if possible, to improve their conventional capability. "That is the first priority of our defence policy and not delusions of nuclear grandeur."

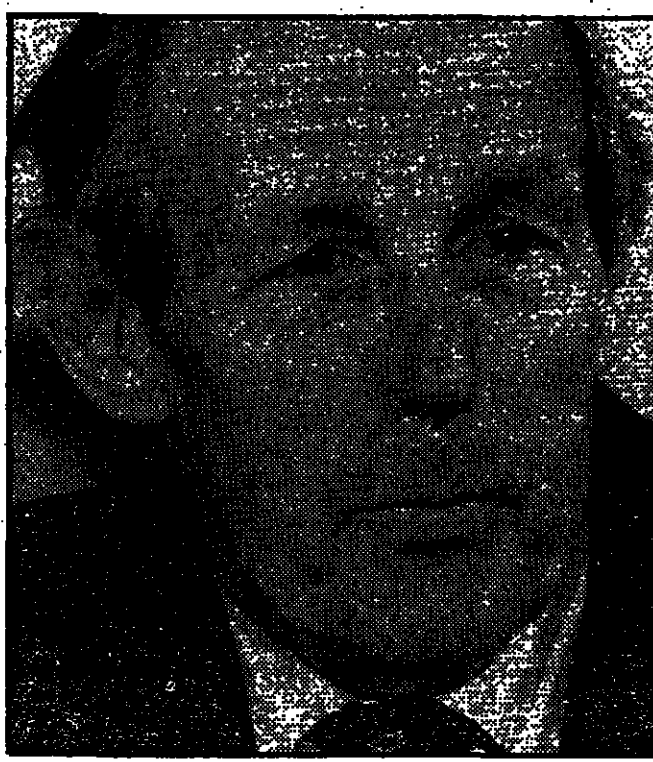
Opening the debate, the Junior Lord of the Commons, Lord Trevelyan, said: "This Government is not in

the business of retrenchment and withdrawal. We are in the business of improvement and enhancement. We are not retreating from the principle of deterrence which has kept this country and our allies in peace and freedom for 40 years."

Lord Boston of Faversham, for the Opposition, described the cut in the Merchant Navy fleet in five years — from 1,297 ships to 758 — as a tragedy. It was also a danger.

The former Conservative Prime Minister, Lord Home, defended Britain's nuclear deterrent which, he said, gave Britain a place at the negotiating table.

"With Trident we shall be there and we shall have something of substance to contribute both to the discussions and, we would hope, to the solution," said Lord Home.



Field Marshal Lord Carver: 'Waste of money'

Right-to-know call on environmental pollutants

By our Political Staff

A bill was laid before the House of Commons yesterday to establish a public right of access to information about the discharge of environmental pollutants.

Presenting the bill under the 10-minute rule, Mr Nigel Forman (C, Carshalton and Wallington) said that the dis-

closure of relevant information should not be left to the discretion and the goodwill of public authorities as the decision by the English Water Authority in holding its meeting in camera had demonstrated.

He said the public had a right to know about industrial hazards in the area and too often secrecy was a cloak for

embarrassment and inaction. His bill would give the right of access to any official document.

He said there would be four important exemptions to that rule: the first on grounds of national security; the second on grounds of industrial confidentiality where information disclosed could be helpful to a

competitor; the third on the grounds of personal privacy where a victim of environmental pollution might want his identity or extent of injury to be secret; and the fourth, to prevent industrial polluters from knowing in advance when visits would be made by inspectors.

The bill would provide for the creation of an environmental information commissioner who would adjudicate on appeal. There would be a further right of appeal on points of law to the High Court.

Mr Forman said: "There is the suspicion that secrecy exists to protect those who create environmental pollution."

His bill would stop that.

MP sounds sour warning for the gin and tonic set

FOOD BILL

GIN and tonic drinkers were warned in the Commons yesterday that the slice of lemon in their favourite drink might be adding more than a sharp tang.

The Liberal MP, Mr Simon Hughes (Southwark and Bermondsey), speaking during the report stage of the Food and Environment Protection Bill, told how researchers from London University had found 20 times the recommended safety level of fungicide on the skins of lemons.

It could be released in a chemical reaction in a gin and tonic, he claimed.

He said: "Members who consume large quantities of the mixture would be at much greater risk from cirrhosis of the liver."

Mr Hughes recounted the results of the research as a "very bizarre" example to back calls for greater public information on pesticides. He said queries with the Government on the lemons research case led to an official answer that the issue was covered by World Health Organisation limits because it has a danger above a certain level.

"They say that the acceptable safety limit is ten parts per million. But London lemons are sold in London shops on regular occasions have 200 parts per million of the fungicide on them."

"What happens is they are grown, harvested and then they are scrubbed to remove the fungicide. But, having been scrubbed, they look a bit unexciting and a bit withered, so they are dipped in a wax-fungicide mixture to make them yellow and shiny and appealing across the counter."

Mr Hughes stressed that there was a no problem if the lemon was washed in water because the fungicide does not react in any way. "The water runs off it. But if you dip them in your gin and tonic with any regularity the alcohol causes a chemical reaction. There may be people in the chamber even at this time who may be worried about this information. But although you might need to drink quite a few gins and tonics, it dissolves the wax and releases

the fungicide in the drink.

"That is then drunk at nearly 20 times the recommended international level."

Mr Hughes was calling for the Government to go further on giving the public information on pesticides.

Mr Fennell said that a pesticide residue working group survey had found cases of lemons in London which exceeded 10 parts per million of the fungicide.

The level found between 81 and 84, on occasions, was 18 parts per million."



Mr Simon Hughes: 'There may be people in the chamber even at this time who may be worried'

SPORTS GUARDIAN

GOLF

David Davies in Monte Carlo

Cloud over Lyle

The more things change, as they say here, the more they stay the same. One year on the pro-am for the Johnnie Walker Monte Carlo Open had to be cancelled yesterday as mist, rain and a cold front from the Mediterranean and completely obscured the Mont Agel course.

This happened last year and was a prelude to the tournament being decided over 36 holes, leaving Ian Mosey with his first win in 11 years on the tour.

Most of the course is 2,700ft above the sea although some parts are 2,300ft lower, and last year I stood on the tee of the short third for the 45 minutes it took Sam Torrance's threesome to find gaps in the mist and play their shots to the green. The third is the lowest part of the course and by the time Torrance and Co had played there were 18 more golfers on the tee, having played the last two holes in bright sunshine.

This year had been bright sunshine for the previous week, leaving little to the imagination on the beaches below, but competitive golf, they say, brings with it a species of rain-blight and all that was necessary to ensure shut-down was for the pro-ams to get underway. Those that started had the doubtful privilege of playing, on average, four holes in roughly five hours.

The situation is particularly frustrating for Sandy Lyle who, having walked out of the Carrolls Irish Open rather than take at least 90, is anxious to restore his form in the 34 weeks this year and not surprisingly is feeling jaded.

"I just want a relatively easy course that I can get into and start feeling good about my golf," said Lyle yesterday. For players at his level confidence only really comes from winning and that will not necessarily be easy this week.

Bernard Langer, the US Masters champion, Paul Way, the leader of the European money list, the Japanese pro Aoki, and Edward Clark, Sam Torrance and Philip Parkin are all here in search of the £20,500 first prize.

UK pool hustlers splash out in Europe

When it comes to gulls, squids and snorkels, the UK show a clean pair of flippers to the rest of Europe. Stephen Bierley explores the hidden depths of Octopush

AS THE late and much-loved Max Miller used to say: "Don't know. The fact is that the United Kingdom, sometimes a little short of things to boast about, are the European underwater hockey champions of 1985, both their men and their women."

In the finals at Crystal Palace it was a double triumph over the Netherlands, the women winning 8-2 and the men 5-2. Sad to say the Belgians got fouled up in red tape and could not make it while the Irish simply, and without apparent explanation, failed to arrive. This left France to challenge the UK-Dutch axis, and they didn't.

Nevertheless the organisers remained cheerful, the competition was fierce, and underwater hockey — a slow motion arena of Octopush — took another important step, or paddle, along the joke littered road to seriousness. It has not been easy.

This is the scene. Twelve players, six each side, garbed in swimming caps and equipped with snorkels and flippers, swim towards the centre of a given pool, upend, disappear, and set about pushing a lead weight from one end to the other. Feeling down at this from above hardly conjures up what Jacques Cousteau used, graphically to describe as "the rapture of the deep."

Cliff Underwood, the genial vice-chairman of the British

Octopush Association, summed it up perfectly: "People didn't take us seriously simply because it was funny." Not to the competitors, of course — and some 2,000 play it regularly in Britain — but to the outsider... well, there is not a lot to see.

Or rather there wasn't. Enter the age of the video camera and suddenly, for spectators at least, the game is transformed. At the World Championships in Chicago last year, won by the Australians, the action was shown on a large screen. Crystal Palace could not quite run to that, but poolside monitors captured the play in glorious colour.

Suddenly a splashing, crashing surface world of bobbing heads and snorting breath becomes a slow motion arena of twisting, tumbling bodies, mouths streaming translucent bubbles, limbs and eyes in intense coordination as the game unfolds: the coming penguins turned graceful underwater hunters.

Octopush began life shortly after the Queen's coronation, when television was black and white and scarce. Alan Blakes of the Southsea sub-aqua club invented it, as much to relieve the boredom as anything. He coined the name, called the goals the gulls, and the puck "the squid". It was all jolly good fun and, above all, honed up a diver's technique and skills.



JOLLY HOCKEY FLIPS... The UK take on the Netherlands in the Crystal Palace pool

Then in the late seventies, with underwater hockey gaining more and more devotees both in Britain, Europe, and Australasia, the French-based World Federation for Underwater Sports (CMAS) took the game under its wing, culminating last year in the World

Championships, and last week and the inaugural European Championships.

In Britain, Octopush is affiliated to the Sports Council and runs a national league on a challenge basis.

On July 6 the national junior championships for 10 to 16-year-olds are in Nottingham, with a senior Anglo-Dutch challenge match in the Netherlands next November. Given our present English summer underwater hockey might start to pop up in the most unexpected places. But seriously...

Liz Kahn at Waterloo, Belgium

Leeway for Laura

GOLF

Laura Davies, who was recently crowned during the Hennessy Cognac Cup in Paris, is unlikely to have such trouble when the inaugural Belgian Open starts today at Royal Waterloo.

The Belgian Federation have contracted the WPGA to request the right to solve any smaller sartorial problems themselves. So far, they haven't replied, said James Paul, the tournament organiser. "We don't want this kind of thing in Belgium," Miss Davies, who finished second in Paris, ended that tournament in tears, although the winner, Jan

Stephenson, also of the US, defended her afterwards, as did the sponsor.

Out of a Belgian population of 10 million, only one per cent play golf, and this week the sponsors, with a budget of £160,000, hope to make the sport more popular.

The field of 78 professionals and three amateurs competing for the £10,000 top prize, includes all the top 10, with the exception of one of the five Scots, Cathy Panton, who is competing in America. Muriel Thomson leads the money list with £2,894.

Connachan, Penny Grice and Laura Davies. The beautiful 8,004-yard par 73 golf course is in wonderful condition, but is playing long after the recent heavy rain.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Soviet-style scrumdown?

VLADIVOSTOCK versus Vargin? Leningrad against Leigh? And how about Kiev and Keighley? It could happen sooner than you think, writes Phil Shaw.

The Soviet Union have expressed interest in an Australian offer to help launch the sport. The Australian Minister for Sport said in Canberra yesterday. The Australian League have offered to sponsor exhibition matches in Moscow featuring their own international team and to provide a coach to assist the Soviets in developing the 13-a-side code.

At home, relegated Leigh have appointed Stan Wall, as coach.

Bob Fisher

A Novell solution...

SAILING

An late offer of sponsorship has ensured that Peter Phillips' 80-foot catamaran will compete in the Round Britain and Ireland race starting on July 6.

Novell Data Systems of Tunbridge Wells made the British Ocean racing skipper a deal which enables him to buy the sails and repair the mast of the biggest multi-hull ever built in Britain and be ready in time for the start.

Phillips had built the huge catamaran with the help of a small band of enthusiasts in Exeter, pinning his hopes on

sponsorship following his excellent performances with the 60-foot trimaran Travacrest Seaway, in which he led the Observer Singlehanded Transatlantic race for a week.

The new boat, now named Novell Network, was designed by John Shuttleworth and is regarded as the latest in high tech construction.

The winged keel of the new American 12-metre Courageous III was revealed in Boston harbour yesterday. It resembles an inverted Y, with far larger wings than Australia II which won the America's Cup in 1983; the vertical part of the keel has a swept-forward leading edge and a vertical trailing edge on which is mounted a large flap.

Aid possible for new ratepayers in Fowler plan

By our Political Reporter

Mr Tony Newton, the Social Security Minister, told a Commons Select Committee yesterday that the Government was considering giving "transitional" help to the poorest who, under the new social security reforms, will have to start paying a proportion of their rate bills.

Tory backbenchers have been privately expressing concern to ministers about the recommendations by the Social Services Secretary, Mr Norman Fowler, that all tenants, including pensioners, receiving benefits should be charged a proportion of the rates, from which they are currently exempt. Mr Fowler suggested that they might pay 20 per cent of their total obligation.

Cross-examined by the Social Services Select Committee chairman, Mrs Renee Short, about whether the 20 per cent figure would be taken in to account in assessing the level of the new benefit, Mr Newton confirmed that ministers had this in mind. He said: "It is our intention when we have been able to settle the structure and then set income support rate we should then consider what transitional provisions would be required for those on income support."

"Obviously, that involves judgments about the relationship between the new income support levels and what people are expected to meet out of those levels. We should take in to account the requirements in respect of rate bills."

Some members expressed their dissatisfaction with Mr Newton's inability to give any detailed answers about the winners and losers under the reforms.

Mrs Short appeared to startle Mr Newton by questioning him about what she said were internal DESS figures which indicated that 7 million of the 7.7 million current claimants, including 4 million pensioners, would be worse off under the proposals.

He asked: "In what sense are they internal figures?" Mrs Short replied: "Those which you are not willing to give us."

Mr Newton after being pressed further on the figures, which suggested that 650,000 claimants would lose £3 a week and 1.8 million people,



Mrs Short: 'Who will be worse off?'

including 1.2 million pensioners, would lose housing benefit, agreed to report back to the committee.

The Tory MP Mr Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield), protested that it was "an extraordinary position" which the committee was being placed in by Mr Newton's inability to give detailed answers.

But Mr Winterton said that 80 per cent of the families with children received benefit. Mr Newton agreed with another Tory MP, Mrs Edwina Currie, that some councils were using housing benefit to recoup cuts in grants from central government. They were increasing the rents of those claiming supplementary benefit rather than those who were not eligible and thus were helping to replace lost subsidies.

Strike cost

By David Heast

The Metropolitan Police spent £16.5 million policing the miners' strike, Mr Giles Shaw, Minister at the Home Office, said yesterday. He said the cost would be met by other police forces.

In a reply to a parliamentary question by Mr Gerald Kaufman, the Shadow Home Secretary, Mr Shaw said that £10 million of the bill had already been paid and that discussions were taking place with other police authorities about the balance.

GOLF: Severiano Ballesteros's early-season winner, has slipped to 16th. **RUGBY UNION:** The French tourists yesterday overcame Santa Fe Province 33-7 in Buenos Aires. Chavette scoring four of their 17 tries.

PPA CERTIFIED DIVIDENDS
All dividends subject to residency. MATCHES PLAYED JUNE 22

LITTLEWOODS POOLS LIVERPOOL

THIS WEEK
ANOTHER SUPER SUMMER PAYOUT
£2 MILLION
ROTHSCHILD MAN WINS
£121,646

AND 94 OTHERS WIN
£13,444

TREBLE CHANCE PAYING 6 DIVIDENDS

24 PTS..... £13,444-55	4 DRAWS..... £12-10
23 PTS..... £224-73	12 HOMES..... £5,156-50
22½ PTS..... £42-75	6 AWAYS..... £1-25
22 PTS..... £17-84	
21½ PTS..... £5-82	
21 PTS..... £1-80	

Below dividends to units of 10p
Expenses and Commission for 8th June 1985 - 20-0%

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VERNONS POOLS LIVERPOOL

Summertime
£1 Million
GOES A PENNY Treble Chance
Get your coupon in now!

FIVE GOES A PENNY TREBLE CHANCE 5 DIVIDENDS

24 pts..... £2,735-75	10 HOMES..... £54-00
23 pts..... £42-50	(Nothing Barred)
22½ pts..... £2-80	8 AWAYS..... £2-95
22 pts..... £3-55	(Nothing Barred)
21½ pts..... £1-00	PIC 6..... £5-50

Below Dividends to Units of 10p
Expenses and Commission for 8th June 1985 - 20-0%

ZETTERS POOLS LONDON EC1

Scores & Scores of 15-a-1's TOPS
£3866
won by H.R. using 8 from 15 for 83 pence

TREBLE CHANCE POOL

24 Pts..... £636.95	18 Pts..... £566.09
23 Pts..... £7-25	(With Bonus for 5th and 6th)
22 Pts..... £1-55	18 Pts..... £159.45
21 Pts..... £0-65	17 Pts..... £1-55

4 SUPER AWAYS..... £86.50 for 10p
4 DRAWS..... £18.00 for 10p
Expenses & Commission for 8.6.85 - 20.0%

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BBC-1

- 6.00 Cee-fax AM. 6.50 Breakfast Time. 9.00 Pages from Cee-fax. 10.30 Play School. 10.50 Interval. 11.00 News. 11.30 Second Test from Lord's. 1.00 News. 1.30 Afternoon News. 2.00 Camberwell Green. 2.10 News. 2.30 Wimbledon. 4.10 Regional News (except London). 4.30 News. 4.50 Stop. 5.00 Col 4.30 News. 5.30 The Three Musketeers. 5.40 John Gorman's Newsround. 5.50 W. Are the Champions. 5.55 Dr. Kildare.
- 6.00 NEWS: weather News.
- 6.00 REGIONAL NEWS MAGAZINES.
- 7.00 EASTENDERS. Cee-fax sub-titles.
- 7.30 TOMORROW'S WORLD. Another round-up of scientific and technological developments, including the holographic camera, portable psychiatry, and the tennis racket that hasn't yet appeared at Wimbledon.
- 7.55 INTERNATIONAL ATHLETICS. The Oslo Games. David Icke and Brendan Foster introduce live coverage of the day's events at the Norwegian capital's famous Bislett Stadium, with Steve Cram in the line-up for the 1,500 metres, and David Moorcroft looking on as Olympic champion Said Runda attempts to lower the British runner's 5,000 metres world record, set in Oslo in 1982.
- 8.30 TOP OF THE POPS introduced by Mike Smith and Peter Powell.
- 9.00 NEWS: Weather News.
- 9.25 MIAMI VICE. The Maze. Followers of the Florida cops who found Matt Houston installed in their Tuesday slot this week may have spotted the scheduling landmark that led the way to this new position - and hopes Mr. Grade, a whole lot of new viewers lured away from TV Eye. It's a hostage situation this week, with Tubbs on the wrong side of the signs, and partner Crockett trying to remember what Starks (or possibly Hutch) did in the same circumstances.
- 10.15 WIMBLEDON 85: Match of The Day. Highlights of the fourth day's championship tennis, introduced by Desmond Lynam.
- 11.15 INTERNATIONAL ATHLETICS. Best bits of today's action: the Bislett Stadium. 11.45 Weather: close.

BBC-2

- 6.30-7.20 am Open University. 9.00 Pages from Cee-fax. 9.55 Daytime on Two: Under the Sun. 10.10 Pages from Cee-fax. 10.30 Science. 10.55 Pages from Cee-fax. 12.50 pm Science Engineering. 1.15 Biotechnology. 1.40 Pages from Cee-fax. 2.00 You and Me. 2.15 Music Time. 2.40 Walter. 3.00 What? 3.00 Wimbledon. 3.55 Cricket. Second Test; and International Athletics from Oslo.
- 7.55 NEWS with sub-titles; weather.
- 8.00 DANCE INTERNATIONAL: BALANCHINE. Introduced by Peter Schanhuus, narrated by Frank Langella, this second American-made programme on the United States' greatest classical choreographer covers the period from 1945 to his death two years ago. It concentrates on Balanchine's views about music, about dance, and about food. The ballets from the latter part of his career seen in excerpt include Chaconne, Agon, Stravinsky Violin Concerto, danced by the likes of Bayshukov, Suzanne Farrell, Jacques d'Amboise.
- 9.00 SING COUNTRY. Another compilation of highlights from this year's Wembley country festival, with Jimmy C. Newman, Susan McCann, Freddie Fender, and Johnny Russell.
- 9.25 ALEC CLIFTON-TAYLOR'S ENGLISH TOWNS. Lewis, Sussex. "An incomparable legacy in a magnificent downland setting," says our guide of the latest venue in the repeated series. Cee-fax sub-titles.
- 10.00 CARDIFF SINGER OF THE WORLD. Young Chinese bass Yue Liu becomes the first singer from the People's Republic to enter the international music contest, challenged in this fourth preliminary heat by singers from Iceland, New Zealand, Eire, and Finland - home of the contest's first winner.
- 10.55 NEWSNIGHT. 11.40 Weatherview.
- 11.45 CRICKET. SECOND TEST. Richie Benaud with highlights of the first day's play between England and Australia at Lord's. 12.10 Weekend Outlook. 12.15 Open University. 1.10 Close.

ITV London

- 6.15 am Good Morning Britain. 9.25 Headlines: Larry the Lamb. 9.40 The Sunbed Voyage. 10.30 Wild World of Animals. 10.55 Indian Legends of Canada. 11.20 Cartoon Time. 11.30 About Britain. 12.00 Foxholes. 12.10 pm Mooncat. 12.30 The Sullivans. 1.00 News. 1.20 Thames News. 1.30 Scarecrow and Mrs. King. 2.25 Home Cookery Club. 2.30 Movie Memories. 3.00 Take the High Road. 3.25 News Headlines. 3.30 Sons and Daughters. 4.00 Postales. 4.15 Crystal Tipps and Alistair. 4.20 Inspector Gadget. 4.40 First Post. 5.00 Dangerous. 5.15 Connections.
- 5.45 NEWS: weather.
- 6.00 THAMES NEWS.
- 6.25 HELP! with Viv Taylor Gee.
- 6.35 CROSSROADS.
- 7.00 EMERDALE FARM.
- 7.30 WHOSE BABY? Berrie Winters introduces more celebrity relative guessing, with panellists, Nanette Newman, Roy Kinnear, June Whitfield.
- 8.00 CARRY ON UP THE JUNGLE. Safari capers with Frankie Howard, Sid James and the gang, encountering cannibals, Amazons, and a randy gorilla, while in pursuit of the rare Oryzomys bird. Hosted by Thomas directed, as ever, in 1971.
- 9.30 TV EYE. Brussels Manhunt. A report on the police investigations in Liverpool, Brussels, and Turin to identify the hoodlums who started the fighting on the night 38 people died.
- 10.00 NEWS AT TEN; weather.
- 10.30 DATABASE. Tony Bastable and co with the computer users' magazine, looking this week at new developments in the fight against computer fraud, visiting an on-line superstore and Mrs. Jones's computer, demonstrating mobile data communication, courtesy of the Kent Police and Fire Brigade.
- 11.00 TENNIS COURT. A topical tale in the Hammer House of Mystery and Suspense slot, with Hannah Gordon and Peter Graves as the new owners of an old house, where a nasty day in the garden seems to be centred on the covered outdoor court.
- 12.25 NIGHT THOUGHTS with Paul Roelens. Close.

Channel 4

- 6.20 pm Film: Ride 'Em Cowboy. 1942 with Abbott and Costello. 4.00 Female Focus: equality in Nigeria. 4.30 Television Scramble.
- 5.00 THE WINDS OF WAR. Continuing the repeat of Herman Wouk's overblown WW2 epic, with Robert Mitchum as Puck.
- 7.00 CHANNEL FOUR NEWS. 7.30 Comment by advice worker and gay activist Lisa Power. Weather.
- 8.00 PROMISED THE EARTH. 2. Seeds of Resistance. Second of the three documentaries - in the Time of Our Lives strand - on the UN Decade of Women looks at two parts of the world where women are beginning to band together to fight poverty and oppression. In Bolivia some 20,000 urban women already desperately poor and now hit even further by 3,000 per cent inflation, are united in their demands for price controls and a say in food distribution. And in Zimbabwe, five years on from the liberation war which promised them advances, the women who were then valued fighters are demanding equal opportunities in peacetime too.
- 9.00 ATHLETICS: THE OSLO GAMES. Jim Rosenthal with highlights of the top name contest from the famous Bislett Stadium, with Mary Decker-Stanley, Steve Cram, among the runners.
- 9.30 GIRD CITY. Another showing for Kest: Cram's grin and credible movie about media manipulation, originally screened in the Film On Four slot in 1982, with Glenda Jackson and Jon Finch.
- 11.20 THE UNREPEATABLE WHO DARES WINS. Last comic compilation of the series drawn from last autumn's outrageously funny 'latenight show'.
- 11.50 ARE YOU TAKING THE TABLETS? Thou Shalt Not Covet. Last programme in the series on the contemporary relevance of the Ten Commandments invites TV producer William G. Stewart to come on down and defend his most notorious show against the charge that it encourages greed. 12.15 Close.

Radio 1

- 6.00 Adrian John. 7.00 Mike Smith. 8.00 Simon Bates. 12.00 Gary Davies. 2.00 pm Steve Wright. 3.00 Bruno Brookes. 7.30 Janice Long. 8.15-9.15 Music.
- Radio 2
- 4.00 Colin Berry. 5.00 Ray Moore. 5.50 Ken Bruce. 10.30 Jimmy Young. 1.50 pm David Jacobs. 2.00-2.30 Music. 3.00-3.30 Music. 3.30-4.00 Music. 4.00-4.30 Music. 4.30-5.00 Music. 5.00-5.30 Music. 5.30-6.00 Music. 6.00-6.30 Music. 6.30-7.00 Music. 7.00-7.30 Music. 7.30-8.00 Music. 8.00-8.30 Music. 8.30-9.00 Music. 9.00-9.30 Music. 9.30-10.00 Music. 10.00-10.30 Music. 10.30-11.00 Music. 11.00-11.30 Music. 11.30-12.00 Music. 12.00-12.30 Music. 12.30-1.00 Music. 1.00-1.30 Music. 1.30-2.00 Music. 2.00-2.30 Music. 2.30-3.00 Music. 3.00-3.30 Music. 3.30-4.00 Music. 4.00-4.30 Music. 4.30-5.00 Music. 5.00-5.30 Music. 5.30-6.00 Music. 6.00-6.30 Music. 6.30-7.00 Music. 7.00-7.30 Music. 7.30-8.00 Music. 8.00-8.30 Music. 8.30-9.00 Music. 9.00-9.30 Music. 9.30-10.00 Music. 10.00-10.30 Music. 10.30-11.00 Music. 11.00-11.30 Music. 11.30-12.00 Music. 12.00-12.30 Music. 12.30-1.00 Music. 1.00-1.30 Music. 1.30-2.00 Music. 2.00-2.30 Music. 2.30-3.00 Music. 3.00-3.30 Music. 3.30-4.00 Music. 4.00-4.30 Music. 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